How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend
5
Original Story
FUMIAKI MARUTO
Art
TAKESHI MORIKI
Character Design
KUREHITO MISAKI

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

contents

Chapter 22 5

Chapter 23 33

Chapter 24 63

Chapter 25 87

Chapter 26 123

TV Anime Adaptation Celebration Comic 159

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

Original Story
FUMIAKI MARUTO
Art
TAKESHI MORIKI
Character Design
KUREHITO MISAKI

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

Volume Five

Presented by
Fumiaki Maruto &
Takeshi Moriki

Character Design by
Kurehito Misaki

ICY TAIL!

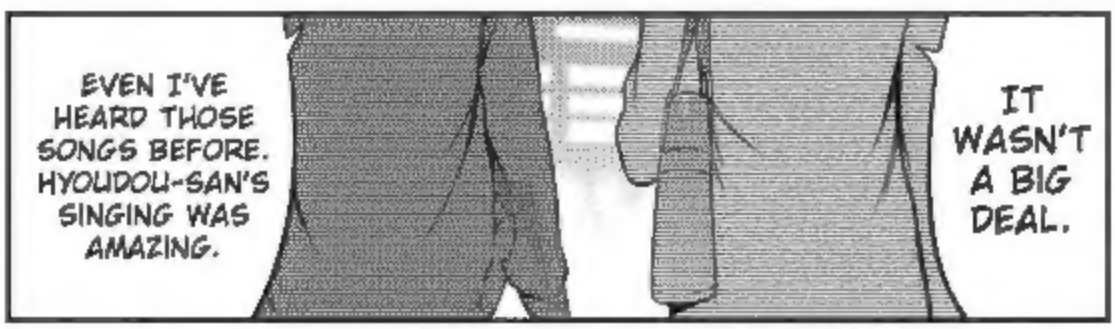
AND WE ARE!

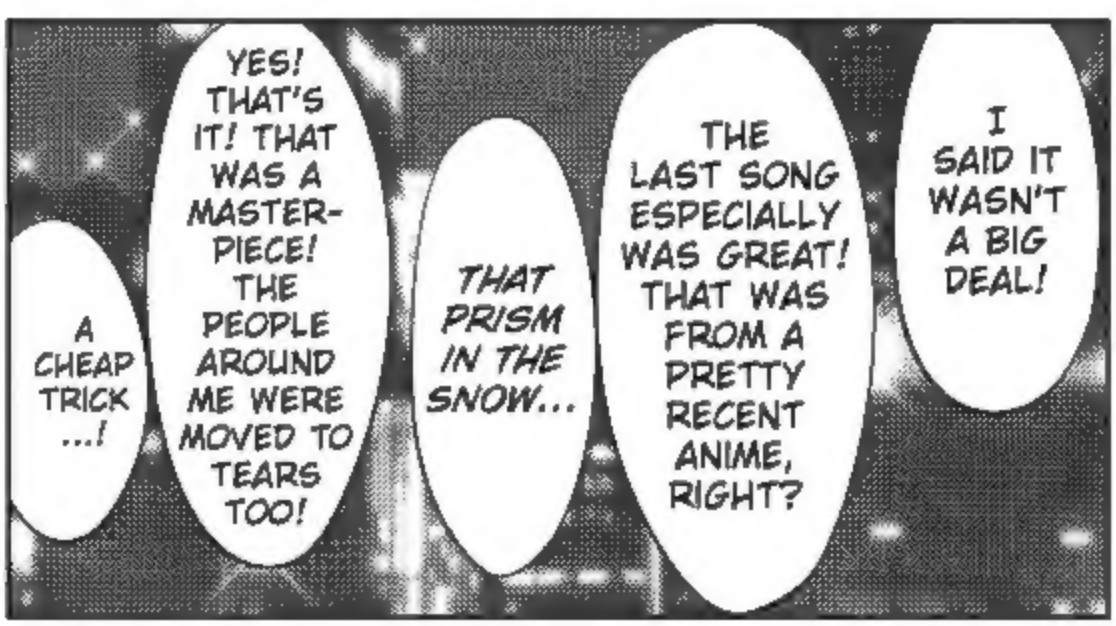
HE WAS OUT THE WHOLE TIME, SO HYOUDOU-SAN HAD TO TAKE HIM HOME IN A TAXI.
NO.
WHO CARES? SHE'S NOT A KID.
ANY-WAY, DID TOMOYA WAKE UP?

YOU REALLY CAN'T WORK AS A TEAM ANY-MORE, HUH?
"ALL OF A SUDDEN" ...?
DUNNO. SHE JUST DISAP-PEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I COULD NEVER CARRY ON A CONVER-SATION IN A CAR WITH THAT CREA-TURE!
NO WAY!
A-AH HA HA...

IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED, YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH THEM.
DID HE REALLY GO HOME?
DID YOU VERIFY WHERE THAT WOMAN TOOK HIM?


EVEN I'VE HEARD THOSE SONGS BEFORE. HYOUDOU-SAN'S SINGING WAS AMAZING.
IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL.


A CHEAP TRICK ...!
YES! THAT'S IT! THAT WAS A MASTER-PIECE! THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WERE MOVED TO TEARS TOO!
THAT PRISM IN THE SNOW...
THE LAST SONG ESPECIALLY WAS GREAT! THAT WAS FROM A PRETTY RECENT ANIME, RIGHT?
I SAID IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL!

WELL, THEN, SHALL WE GO TOO?
SURE... BUT THE SHOW WAS GOOD, WASN'T IT?

EVEN WITHOUT ANY MUSIC, THIS GAME WILL MOVE PEOPLE TO TEARS THROUGH THE ART AND STORY ALONE.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HYOUDOU-SAN'S SCORE.

SHE REALLY DOES WRITE GOOD SONGS, DOESN'T SHE?

A NOOB LIKE YOU IS DOING THE PROGRAMMING. YOU'VE BEEN TAINTED BY THAT STUPID TOMOYA.

WELL, THAT'S MUTUAL, ISN'T IT?

...IS THAT YOU'VE BECOME SERIOUS ABOUT THE GAME, HAVEN'T YOU?

AND THE OTHER ...

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WINTER COMIKET! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF GAME WE'LL END UP WITH?

.....

NEVER MIND!

LOOK! THE LIGHT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE!

I'M NOT ANGRY! I'M JUST IN A RUSH!

WHAT? WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY ALL OF A SUDDEN?

TA (DASH)

SAWA-MURA-SAN?

YOU KNOW, YOU—

SEE!? NOW THE LIGHT'S GONE RED 'COS YOU WERE SO SLOW!
UHH ...

I DIDN'T SAY THAT BY MIS-TAKE.
YEAH, UM...
...B-BUT YOU JUST...

Y-YOU SEE... MY USING "-SAN" WITH CLASS-MATES IS PART OF MY "LADY-LIKE" PER-SONA.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, THAT'S NOT ME. I'M JUST AN OTAKU.

SO I WONDER... IF I'M WITH YOU— WITH YA, COULD I ACT MORE LIKE MY PLAIN OTAKU SELF?

YOU MEAN THE WAY YOU ARE WHEN YOU TALK TO AKI-KUN?

COME ON! HURRY UP...
...ERR...
...MEGUMI!

SO, "MEGUMI" IS OKAY... RIGHT?

WELL DONE, SHII-CHAN!

THE FIRST VOLUME IS EXCELLENT!

I'M SORRY IT WAS SO LATE, MACHIDA-SAN.

That's fine! Not a problem!

To make up for it, I persuaded the managing editor to publish Volumes 1 and 2 in two consecutive months!

... THAT'S A JOKE, RIGHT? YOU WEREN'T BEING SERIOUS, WERE YOU?

..... SERIOUS ENOUGH THAT, IF YOU PULL THIS STUNT AGAIN, THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME, OKAY ...?

...It won't happen again. Please forgive me.

But there's no need to worry, is there?

After all, you've finished your writing work for TAKI-kun, right?

YEAH, FOR THE MOST PART.

Anyway, you're done with that project, so you can keep writing your own stuff now, no?

...I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN PICKING THAT APART.

Still, now that you're done with that business, it's time to make work your lover from here on out!

Well, you're young, so you get boys on the brain sometimes.

...IT STILL NEEDS SOME REVISIONS AND FINE TUNING.

...IT'S A BIT...

WELL ...

THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO, BUT...

SHII-CHAN?

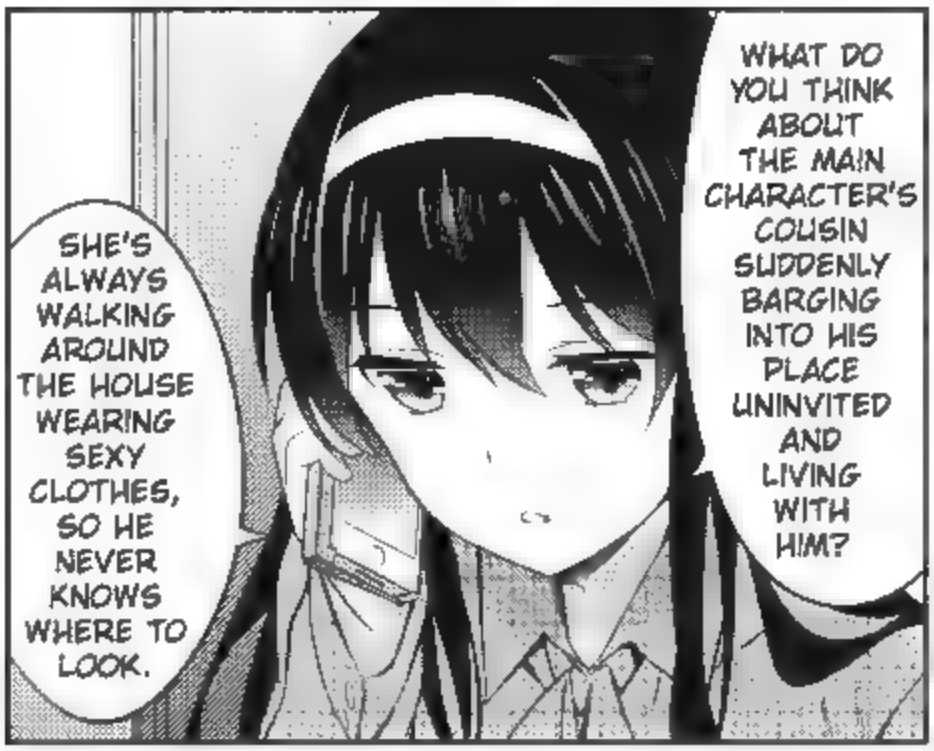
.....

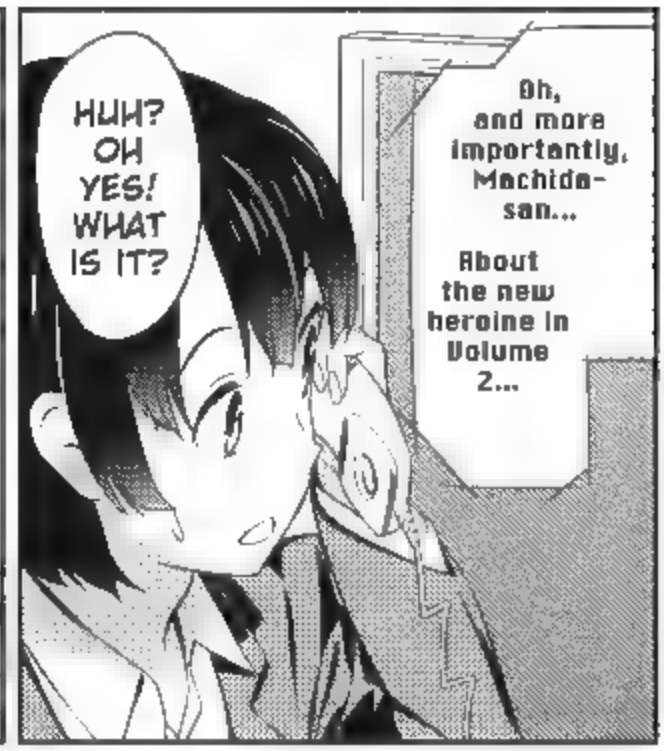
Really? You're sure?

...JUST SOME FINE TUNING, I SAID.

...HEY, NOW. DON'T TELL ME...

...YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW YOUR DEADLINE *AGAIN*?


WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTER'S COUSIN SUDDENLY BARGING INTO HIS PLACE UNINVITED AND LIVING WITH HIM?
SHE'S ALWAYS WALKING AROUND THE HOUSE WEARING SEXY CLOTHES, SO HE NEVER KNOWS WHERE TO LOOK.


Oh, and more importantly, Machida-san...
About the new heroine in Volume 2...
HUH? OH YES! WHAT IS IT?

Oh, that's good! Really good! That's very un-Utako Kasumi— a very formulaic develop-ment!
It'll send readers into a frenzy, just like the blonde with the twintails in Volume 1!

.....THEY ARE KIND OF CLICHÉ, HUH?
BOTH OF THEM ...

CHAPTER
22

SIGN: TOYOGASAKI SCHOOL FESTIVAL

AFTER SCHOOL

SIGN: AV ROOM

NOW, THEN!

WELL DONE, MISS HEAD WRITER!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SAYING "GOOD RIDDANCE."

FAREWELL, UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA... ...FOREVER!

LEAVE THE REST TO US AND THROW ALL YOUR ENERGIES INTO WRITING YOUR NEW LIGHT NOVELS! ♪

YOU'RE GOING TO END UP A MONTH BEHIND SCHEDULE AND THEN COME TO ME BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS, A MESS OF TEARS AND SNOT, SO... ...I THINK IT BEST YOU HOLD THAT BAD ATTITUDE IN CHECK RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU?

INDEED. TODAY IS A LANDMARK DAY!

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A LANDMARK DAY— STOP FIGHTING!

I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT A SO-CALLED ILLUSTRATOR WHO, EVEN THOUGH SHE HASN'T FINISHED THE WORK ASSIGNED TO HER, ACTS LIKE SHE HAS PLENTY OF TIME AND ESCAPES FROM REALITY WITH ANIME, GAMES, AND COMICS UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE DEADLINE AND THAT HER SLACKING OFF MIGHT BOOMERANG BACK AT HER, SEE?

HEAVENS! PEOPLE GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE KIND TO YOU AND CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WORK AND HEALTH, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN ACCEPT THAT AT FACE VALUE?

SEEMS IT'S NOT JUST A RUMOR THAT NOVELISTS ARE STUBBORN, CLOSED-MINDED, AND UTTERLY LACKING IN CHARACTER!

BUT...

ON THIS DAY, WE RECEIVED FROM UTAHA-SENPAI THE "FINAL VERSION OF THE COMPLETE SCENARIO"!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? IF YOU KICK ME OUT NOW AND END UP EVEN MORE OF A BLOODY MESS, WHAT WILL I CARE WHEN YOU COME CRYING TO ME FOR HELP?

HUNH? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HOW WOULD THAT EVER HAPPEN?

ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVOKE ME? 'COS YOU'LL GET NOTHING.

NOW THAT THE STORY LINE'S COMPLETE, THE HARD TRUTH IS THAT YOU DON'T BELONG IN THIS CIRCLE ANYMORE, SO YOU SHOULD HEAD ON BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM, UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA.

...OR SHOULD I SAY "KASUMIGAOKA-SEN-PAI"?

HIYA, TOMO!

GARA (SLIDE)

DO

DO

DO

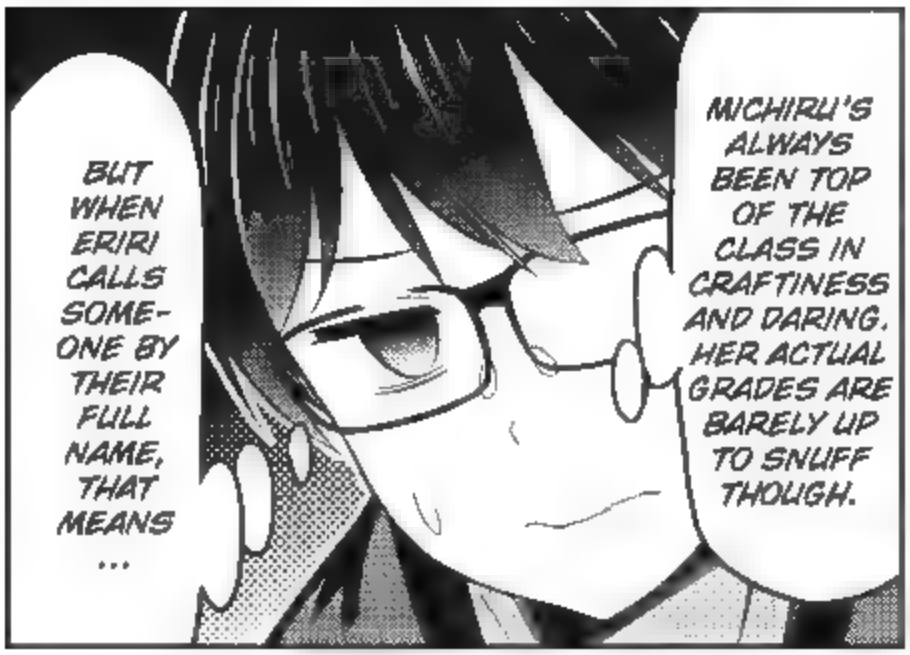
DO

TOMOYA

BUT EVEN SO, THESE TWO JUST WON'T STOP ARGUING!

M-MICHIRU?
MAN, TOYOGASAKI IS REALLY FAR! I SET OFF AS SOON AS SCHOOL ENDED, BUT IT'S ALREADY NIGHT!
I WROTE A NEW SONG!
SO I JUST FELT LIKE I NEEDED YOU TO HEAR IT RIGHT AWAY, AND I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF!
WELL, THIS REALLY GREAT TUNE POPPED INTO MY HEAD LAST NIGHT!
BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE? AND ON A WEEKDAY!
YEAH, BUT IN THE GAME, IT'LL BE A RECORDED VERSION ANYWAY...
NOW, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY. LISTEN UP!
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, TOMO! THERE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT IMPACT BETWEEN A LIVE SHOW AND A RECORDING!
YOU COULD HAVE JUST E-MAILED ME A RECORDING...
TSK!
TSK!

HYO! (SHOOP)
ひょ
しゅっ
!
HUP!
DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS...


BUT WHEN ERIRI CALLS SOME-ONE BY THEIR FULL NAME, THAT MEANS ...
MICHIRU'S ALWAYS BEEN TOP OF THE CLASS IN CRAFTINESS AND DARING. HER ACTUAL GRADES ARE BARELY UP TO SNUFF THOUGH.

...!
OHH. I SAID I WAS HERE FOR A "LIGHT MUSIC CLUB JOINT PRACTICE," AND THEY JUST LET ME IN.

HUH!?
AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN OTAKU STUFF. BUT TOMO SAID, "I WANT YOU," SO I'M HELPING OUT 'COS I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. OR AM I WRONG?
AND I'M A MEMBER OF YOUR CIRCLE TOO, Y'KNOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME SUCH A HARD TIME.

HUH? DID I SAY THAT TO ERIRI TOO?
WELL, THAT'S NOT WHAT'S BEING ARGUED HERE ANYWAY.
TH-TH-TH-THAT'S THE SAME LINE HE FED ME!
BAAAN (WHAM)

NO, EVEN IF SHE WASN'T FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL, THAT WOULD BE THE END OF THE CIRCLE... AND THE END OF ME!
FOR SOMETHING THIS MINOR? NOT A CHANCE!
WELL, IF THERE WAS AN ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP OR SOMETHING, THAT'D BE ANOTHER STORY!
A-AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF OUR CIRCLE WAS BANNED THANKS TO YOUR TRESPASSING !?

ANYWAY, YOU ALL SEND YOUR WRITING AND ART BACK AND FORTH BY E-MAIL, SO WHY DO YOU NEED TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE?
...WELL, WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AND LIVE NEARBY ...
TH-THAT'S ...
AND YOU HAVE A VERY NARROW VIEW OF THINGS, YOU EROTIC DOUJIN ARTIST!
A NON-OTAKU IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THINKING UP SCHOOL-BASED EROTIC DOUJIN SCENARIOS IN THE PURE-LOVE GENRE!
GYAAAH!

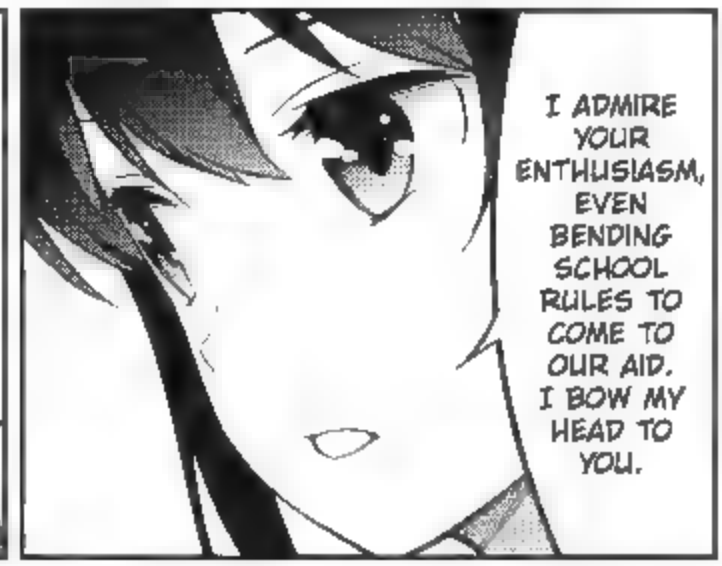
...ARGH!
BUT I'M FAMILY, RIGHT?
HUH!?

GAAAHH

IT'S LIKE NOBI○○ AND DO○○EMON!

I DID WARN YOU ABOUT THIS, BUT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE YOU WOULD ACTUALLY COME CRYING TO ME FOR HELP.

...U-UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA ~!



WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

ACCORDING TO THE DICTIONARY— "BEHAVING ACCORDING TO ONE'S DESIRES WITHOUT CONCERN FOR OTHERS"...
...I DO WHAT I WANT!
SELFISH-NESS...

NO DUH. I'M IN A BAND, YOU KNOW.
... WORKING AS A GROUP IS FUNDA-MENTAL.
ARE YOU LIS-TENING, HYOU-DOU-SAN? IN A CIRCLE ...

THEN I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM... BUT...
...YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO CHECK YOURSELF WHEN MAKING A TEAM, HAVE YOU?

YES. YOU ARE INDEED IN A BAND...
...AS THE STAR, THE IRREPLACEABLE VOCALIST, SELF-CENTERED IN ALL THINGS.

...COULD YOU STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH ...
... SENPAI?

WHA—!?

AHH, THEY REALLY DO MAKE A FINE TAG TEAM...

THEY EVEN START FIGHTING EACH OTHER MID-MATCH.

...YOU WHIPPED DOG OF AN ILLUSTRATOR.

YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP, AND NOW YOU STAB ME IN THE BACK, SAWAMURA-SAN...

THAT'S NICE COMING FROM AN EGOCENTRIC AUTHOR WHO MISSES HER DEADLINES TO SUIT HERSELF AND CAUSES HER EDITOR HEADACHES ALL THE TIME.

BOSO (MUTTER)

SAY, KATOU, WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS DOING ON YOUR SMART-PHONE?

IT'S BEEN CATCHING MY ATTENTION LATELY.

OH YEAH.

LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT DRAG ON A WHILE.

ESCAPE, ESCAPE ...

I HOPE WE'RE IN TIME FOR WINTER COMIKET.

WE WILL BE. YOU'LL SEE...

WHAT-EVER IT TAKES...

GARA (FWSH)

...YOUR HAIR'S GOTTEN PRETTY LONG AGAIN.

ANYWAY ...

BASICALLY, IF YOU KEEP CHANGING YOUR HAIRSTYLE BEFORE WE FULLY ESTABLISH YOUR CHARACTER, THEN EVEN IF YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE MOE, YOU WON'T BE.

YES, IF ITS OWNER IS CUNNING IN HOW SHE USES IT.

...MOE EMBLEMS? RIGHT?

UH, BUT EVEN ORDINARY PONYTAILS ARE LIKE THOSE, UM...

YOU'VE LET GO OF THE DEVILISH SHORT PONYTAIL TOO, EH...? IT'S WEAKENED YOUR CHARACTER AGAIN.

FASA (FWISH)

IF IT WERE SHORT LIKE BEFORE, I COULD RESIST ...

...BUT—

ANOTHER REASON I WANT TO PULL IT IS THAT IT'S JUST THE RIGHT LENGTH.

ANY WAY I LOOK AT IT, EVEN IF YOU CALL IT HUMAN INSTINCT, THIS IS MORE A PERSONAL HABIT OF YOURS.

HUMANS ARE MADE TO PULL ON RIBBON-LIKE THINGS.

IT'S THE FAULT OF THOSE WITH PONY-TAILS.

AKI-KUN, ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU SAY AND DO TO ME ASIDE...

...I THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T PLAY WITH MY HAIR SO MUCH, DON'T YOU?

FUWA

FUWA

FUWA (FLUFF)

I'M REPEATING MYSELF, BUT...

...FORGET THAT.

DID YOU KNOW, KATOU?

IF YOU PINCH HAIR WITH YOUR NAILS FROM THE ROOTS AND THEN PULL DOWN, IT GETS CURLY?

...EVERY-ONE'S LOOKING THIS WAY.

*NOTE: RINRI CAN MEAN "MORALS."

...AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "TH-THIS ISN'T FUNNY! WHO COULD FLIRT WITH A GUY LIKE THIS!?" AND THEN DO SOMETHING VIOLENT TO AKI-KUN. IS THAT RIGHT?
UMM...
OH, IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, I'M SUPPOSED TO BLUSH...

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT SHE DELIVERED A BEAUTIFUL PUNCH LINE.

HOW COME I'M THE BUTT OF THIS JOKE!?

YUP! THAT'S THE LINE OF A BLOND, HALF-JAPANESE PERPETUAL LOSER!

AHH~! THAT WOULD BE SAWAMURA-SAN, RIGHT?

GAH!

TEE-HEE-HEE!

AH-HA-HA-HA!

HUH?
CAN I GET YOU ANY-THING?
I JUST REMEM-BERED, SENPAI.
BUT IF YOU'RE A CREATOR, THEN YOU NEED COMPEN-SATION.
YOU'VE BECOME A CREATOR TOO, SO JUST FOCUS ON GETTING YOUR GAME DONE NOW.
PLUS, THIS IS AN AMATEUR PROJECT.
IT'S FINE. I JUST DID MY JOB AS A CREATOR.
AS A PRESENT FOR FINISHING THE STORY.
IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING TOO PRICEY, SINCE WE'VE STILL GOT CIRCLE EXPENSES, BUT...
RINRI-KUN...
LIKE I SAID, THAT'D MEAN THE END OF ME AND THE CIRCLE!
ALSO, BREATHING ON ME WHILE YOU SAY THAT MAKES IT SOUND EROTIC, SO, EVEN IF YOU'RE KIDDING, PLEASE STOP.
FWOO...
...HOW ABOUT THANKING ME NOT WITH WORDS, BUT WITH ACTIONS?
THAT WON'T COST YOU ANY MONEY... THOUGH, IT WILL CONSUME A LOT OF STAMINA.
BUT ... OH YES ...
SFX: KURU (SPIN)

.....
YOU TRULY ARE PRIN-CIPLED, AREN'T YOU ...?
POGO (WHISPER)
I WANT TO THANK YOU PROPERLY.
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO? GIVE ME A SERIOUS ANSWER.
YES... WELL, THEN.
SORRY. I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.
?
I WONDER IF YOU COULD GO OUT WITH ME THIS SATUR-DAY?
END

CHAPTER
23

...UM, ER...
UTAHA-SENPAI.
I DO WISH YOU WOULD SPEAK TO ME AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT IS IT, RINRI-KUN?
I'M SORRY... BUT...
...HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON US BEING HERE?

PLEASE DON'T JOKE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT COULD ACTUALLY BE DONE.

WELL, IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, MAYBE UNTIL I FINISH THE FIRST STORY.

...YOU ARE JOKING, AREN'T YOU?

WELL ...

...PERHAPS UNTIL I FINISH THESE SIXTY-EIGHT VOLUMES OF *THE COLLECTED WORKS OF RYOUTAROU SHIBA.*

IT'S NOT HERE SO YOU CAN READ BOOKS FOR FREE. IT'S A SHOP THAT SELLS BOOKS!

THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS A BOOK-SHOP!

INDEED. IF I REALLY TRIED, MAYBE I COULD PULL IT OFF.

ANYWAY, THIS BOOKSHOP CLOSES AT ELEVEN P.M.

JUOKUDO BOOKS

ANYWAY, LET'S GO OUT FOR A BIT. IT'S ALMOST LUNCHTIME AFTER ALL.

...I WILL REFRAIN FROM GRUMBLING THAT THIS IS WHAT I WANTED YOU TO DO IN THE FIRST PLACE.

PATAN (SHUT)

OH, FINE!

I READ HALF OF THIS BOOK, SO I'D BETTER BUY IT.

LEFT ALONE

SHE CAME IN AND STARTED READING WHEN THE DOORS OPENED. I'VE STUCK IT OUT FOR TWO HOURS ALREADY, WAITING AND KILLING TIME...

...BUT I'M AT MY LIMIT. SHE'S PRACTICALLY IGNORING ME ANYWAY.

I CAN'T PUT UP WITH THIS ANY LONGER!

YOU SAID YOU'D BE MY PORTER AND WALLET!
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU WOULD BUY FIVE HARD-COVERS FIRST THING...
AND NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE UP RIGHT OFF THE BAT? WERE YOU JUST FULL OF HOT AIR?

NOW, LET'S GO, RINRI-KUN.
H-HOLD ON A MINUTE!
I JUST NEED TO ORGANIZE THE BAG FIRST.

YES. THAT'S TODAY'S AIM.
TODAY, I'LL DO ALL I CAN FOR YOU, WITHIN MY ABILITIES AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
WELL, I CAN'T BUY YOU A MULTI-VOLUME LITERARY SERIES ...
...BUT LEAVE LUNCH TO ME.
I COULDN'T HELP IT.
I'VE BEEN SO ABSORBED IN MY WRITING OF LATE THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO ANY READING AT ALL.

.....
AS ALWAYS, THIS LADY AUTHOR JUST LOVES USING MIS-LEADING EXPRES-SIONS...
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT CARRYING YOUR BAGS, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT, RIGHT?
YES. I WANT YOU TO BE AS GENTLE AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF YOUR STAMINA AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

I WONDER IF YOU COULD GO OUT WITH ME THIS SATURDAY?
WHAT UTAHA-SENPAI ASKED FOR WAS THIS DAT— THIS SHOPPING TRIP.

LET'S GET A MOVE ON!

THE TWO OF THEM LEFT ALREADY!

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO HUMBLE. I AM VERY SATISFIED.

THOSE FRIES REALLY FILLED ME UP.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL, RINRI-KUN.

...NOT AT ALL.

THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN REAS-SURING ...

THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WORDS, SENPAI.

...IF WE HADN'T COME TO A PIZZA PLACE.

SHAOEY'S

...BUT SHE HARDLY NO-TICED.

HUH...?

I DON'T WANT MY HANDS TO GET DIRTY.

NO

I GOT HER A PIZZA ...

I WOULDN'T BE IF IT HADN'T ALREADY BEEN DEMOLISHED SO MUCH ...!

I'M SURPRISED. YOU'RE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HONOR.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF TREATING HER TO ANYTHING!?

...AND JUST ATE FRIES WITH HER CHOP-STICKS...

SHE OPENED UP THE BOOK SHE BOUGHT ON THE TABLE, IMMERSED HERSELF IN READING AGAIN...

...SO ...
... WHERE TO NEXT, SENPAI ...?

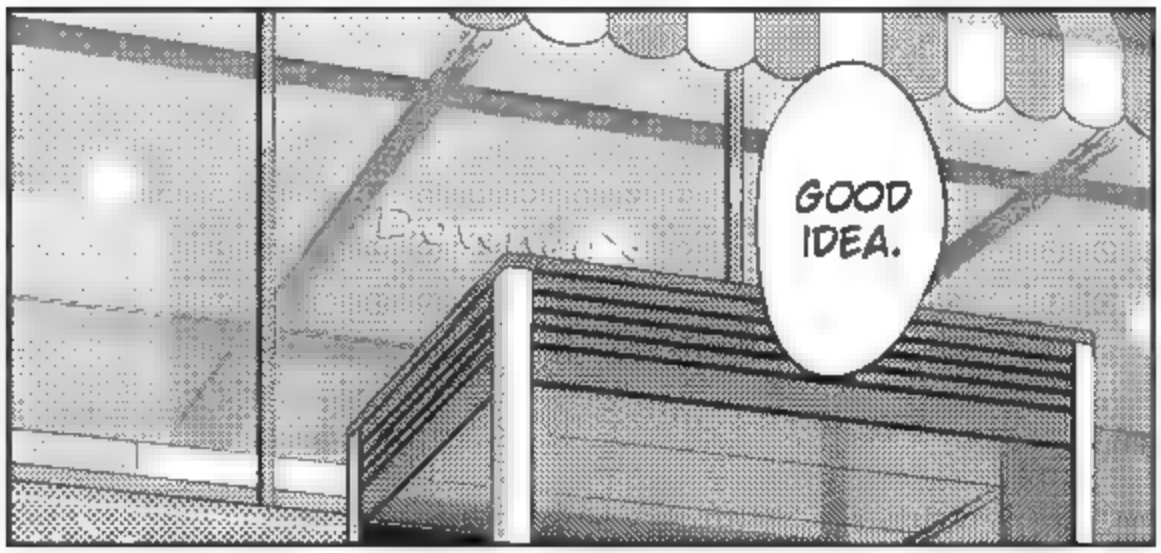
HEY, STOP TALKING ABOUT YOUR OBSCENE CRAVINGS LIKE THEY'RE NOTHING!
RIGHT NOW, I HAVE MORE OF AN INTELLECTUAL APPETITE THAN HUNGER FOR FOOD OR THE FLESH.
CAN'T HELP IT.

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE STOP TREATING ME LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HERE?
HMM.
ANYWHERE THAT'S NOT COLD, IS ALSO QUIET, AND I CAN SIT DOWN AND READ.

HEY, SENPAI...
...WANNA GO SEE A MOVIE OR SOME-THING?

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

THANKS TO SHIBA-SENSEI, SENPAI SEEMS VERY FUL-FILLED...
...BUT THAT'S NO THANKS TO ME.
IT'S LIKE SHE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE I'M HERE.


GOOD IDEA.

.....

8
RABEN
HEY, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE !?
THEY MUST BE WITHIN A RADIUS OF TWO HUNDRED METERS!
HAAH ...
HFF...
IT'S WEIRD!
I CAN'T FIND THEM.

!
UMM ... BUT... WHY?
EVEN SO, TOMOYA SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO FIND ...!
...I THINK THERE MUST BE TENS OF THOU-SANDS OF PEOPLE IN THAT RANGE.

LIKE HIS OVERLY STRONG OTAKU AURA!

WELL ...!

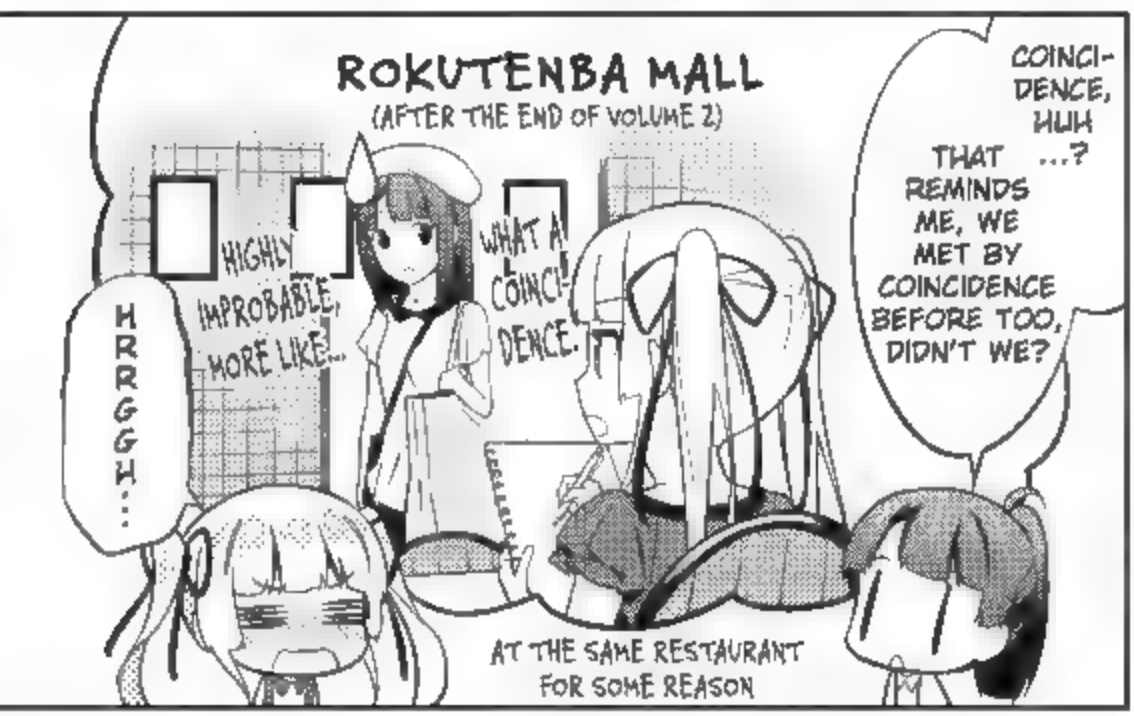
SEE —!

HE HAS DISTIN-GUISHING TRAITS!

KAAAAA (BLUSH)

I THINK THE ONE WHO'S MOST UNIQUE AND EASIEST TO FIND IS YOU, ERIRI.

...BACK OFF, WOULD YA!?



CINEMA SUNSET

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT...

LOOK, THEY'RE IN LINE.

AT THE BACK.

ISN'T THAT AKI-KUN AND KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI OVER THERE?

That Prism in the Snow

Screening in Progress

ERR, COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR HABIT OF TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M ACTUALLY SOME VILLAIN?

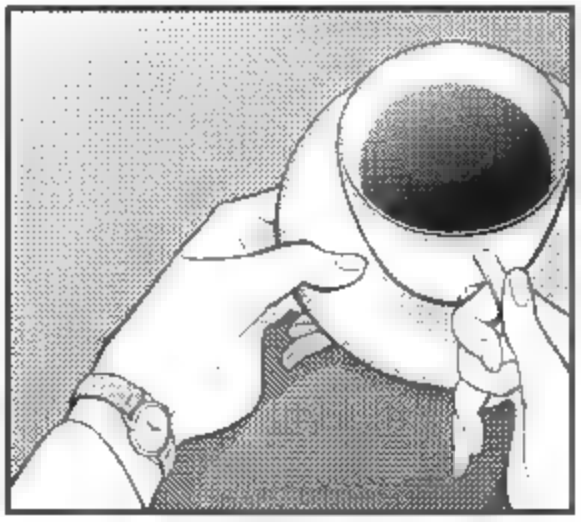
ALWAYS PICKING THE CHOICE MOMENTS AND INNOCENTLY CATCHING YOUR ENEMIES OFF GUARD!

THIS IS SO LIKE YOU!

DA COASHD

ああああ
DAAAAA (DRIP)

...BUT IN TERMS OF STORY, IT JUST COULDN'T GET PAST THAT REHASH FEEL.
THERE WERE SOME GOOD ASPECTS TO THE ART AND DIRECTION...



BUT THE LAST SCENE REALLY NAILED IT!
THE TV VERSION IS A MASTERPIECE, BUT THE WAY SHE RUINED THE MOVIE WAS THE ULTIMATE CRIME.
BUT IN TERMS OF THE SETTING, SHE WAS SIMPLY DECORATION TO FILL IN BACK-GROUND.
THAT'S A TRIUMPH OF CHAR-ACTER DESIGN.

YOU THINK?
BUT THAT NEW CHARACTER WAS ULTRA-CUTE.

...YOU SHOULD SIMPLY APPLAUD THE CHARACTERS AND DIRECTION. YOU'LL BE HAPPIER AS A FAN.

BUT RATHER THAN GRIPING ABOUT THE SCRIPT...

THE SCRIPT IS TOTALLY CLICHÉD, BUT THE VISUALS AND MUSIC OVERWHELM YOU SO YOU THINK, "I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THIS IS AMAZING."

WELL, THAT'S A TRIUMPH OF DIRECTION.

FUUU (SIGH)

EEP .....

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING SO IRRESPONSIBLE FROM THE DIRECTOR WHO'S ADAPTING MY SCENARIO.

EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M JUST A FILTHY COMMONER.

BUT THAT KIND OF BLIND DEVOTION WILL SOMEDAY BE THE DOWNFALL OF CREATORS.

... COURAGE?

I UNDERSTAND THE TASTE THING, BUT...

OF COURSE NOT. THERE'S NOTHING I'M MORE GRATEFUL FOR THAN THE OPINIONS OF A READER WHO APPROACHES MY WORK SERIOUSLY.

.....BUT WOULDN'T YOU BE ANGRY?

YES. FOR INSTANCE, EVEN IF I'M THE ONE WHO CREATED IT, IF YOU THINK SOMETHING ■ BAD, YOU NEED TO BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO TEAR IT APART WITHOUT MERCY.

LISTEN, RINRI-KUN.

YOU TOO NEED TO HAVE A DISCERNING EYE AND THE COURAGE TO SAY WHAT'S GOOD IS GOOD AND WHAT'S BAD IS BAD.

AND HERE I THOUGHT A MOVIE WOULD BE THE BEST CHOICE FOR SATISFYING UTAHA-SENPAI'S INTEL-LECTUAL CURIOSITY.

WHY AM I GETTING LECTURED LIKE THIS !?

BUT...

I KNEW IT! THAT'S TOO SCARY A RISK!

WELL, I MIGHT SULK TO NO END, AND I'M CONFIDENT I WOULDN'T SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MONTH. AND IF THAT OPINION WAS OFF BASE, I'D NEVER SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN...

OH!

THEY MUST HAVE SETTLED DOWN BY NOW TOO. SHALL WE MAKE A MOVE?

NOW, THEN.

I CAN PAY FOR—

YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO SHOW OFF. COMING TO THIS CAFÉ WASN'T PART OF OUR ORIGINAL PLAN, WAS IT?

NOW, THIS IS FINALLY FEELING LIKE A DAT— I MEAN, A SHOPPING TRIP!

...BEFORE, SHE WAS ENGROSSED IN HER BOOK AND WOULDN'T CHAT.

WELL ...

...TO MAKE IT UP TO ME, YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE TO WORK AS HARD AS YOU CAN.

PIRA (FLIP)

...SHE MUST'VE NOTICED ME TENSING UP WHEN I SAW THE MENU...

...YOU GOT ME.

WAH! WAAH ...

NOW, WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY "THEY"?

GUSU (SOB)

FEELING BETTER NOW?

Y- YES...

I'M SORRY, MEGUMI ...

...THAT YOU HAD TO SEE THIS UN-SEEMLY SIDE OF ME ...

WAAAH .....

GUSU

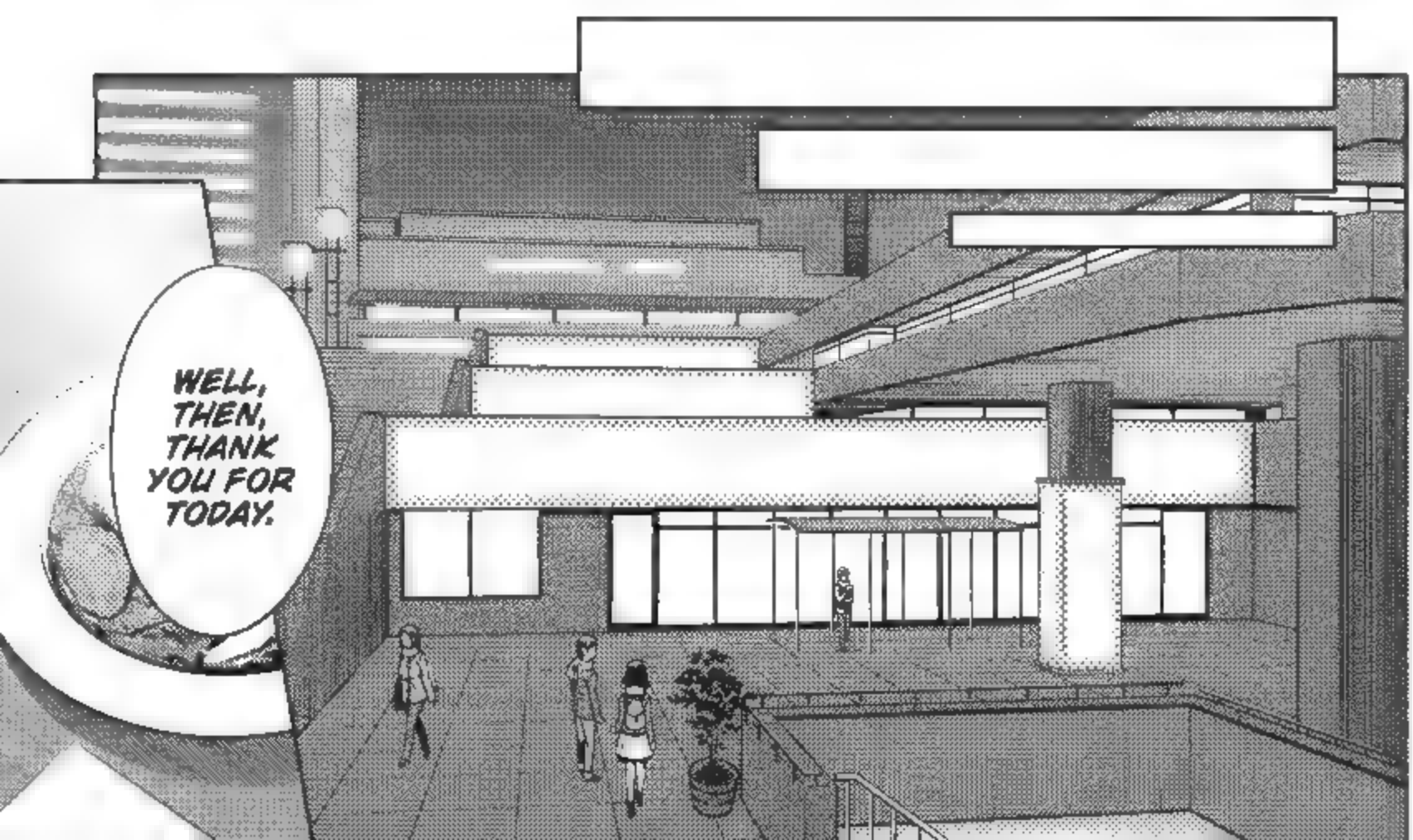
BUT...

BUT ...

WELL, KOUHEI CHOSE TO FORGET ALL ABOUT U! AND LIVE HIS LIFE LOOKING AHEAD, DIDN'T HE?
IN WHICH CASE, THE ONLY ONE LEFT FOR HIM WAS THE GIRL NEXT DOOR WHO'D BEEN WATCHING HIM SINCE THEY WERE KIDS— MARIKO!
SHE WAS!
...WAS SHE?

...I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WENT WITH MARIKO IN THE END...!
THANK GOODNESS ...! THANK GOODNESS THE SERIES DIDN'T END AFTER THE TV SHOW...!
OH. SO THAT LAST SCENE HAD EXTRA MEANING, HUH?

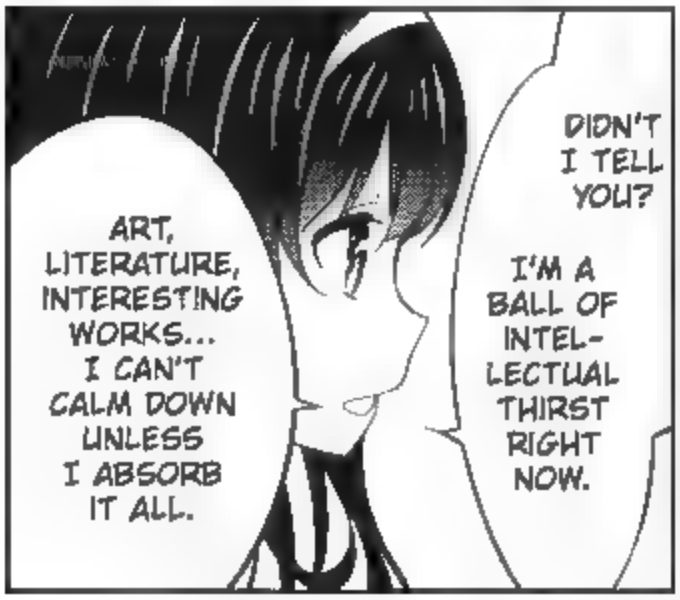
YES, YES. IT WAS GREAT THAT IT ENDED WITH THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
NEVER MIND THAT. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PRISM NOW! I'VE STILL GOT LOTS MORE TO UNLOAD!
WELL, IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS THOSE TWO ARE FINALLY OFF.

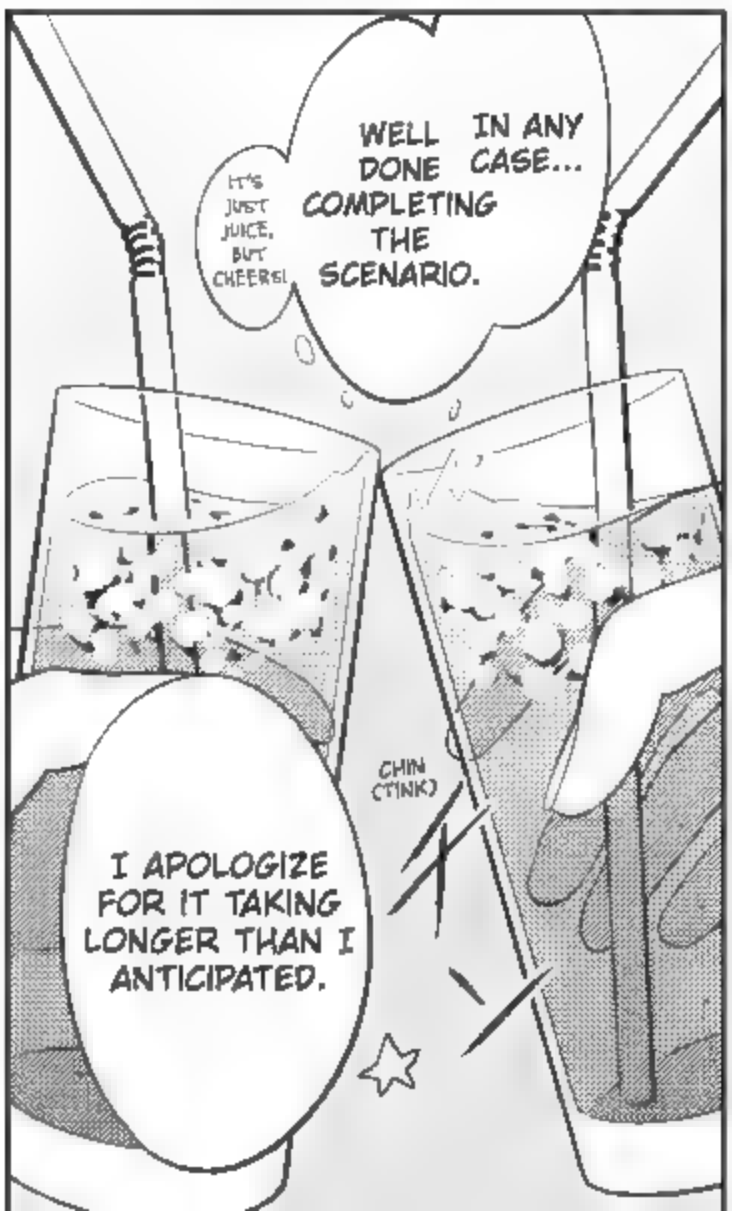

WELL, THEN, THANK YOU FOR TODAY.

YOU REALLY ARE EXHAUSTED, AREN'T YOU, RINRI-KUN?

THANK YOU~!

PHEW...





YOUR ADMIRABLE ATTITUDE IS CERTAINLY APPRECIATED, BUT...

...IT'S MACHIDA-SAN, NOT ME, WHO YOU SHOULD BE SAYING THAT TO.

BUT DUE TO MY LATENESS, THE REST OF YOUR WORK IS GOING TO BE HELL, RIGHT?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, THE PROGRAMMING SUPERVISOR, RINRI-KUN.

J-JUST WHAT I WANTED!

AT ANY RATE, MY PART'S DONE NOW.

KACHA CLINK

YES. THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THI—

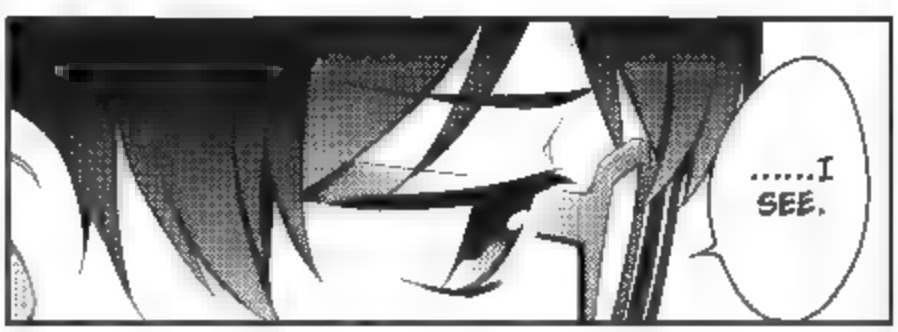
I MAY NOT SHOW UP TO THE CIRCLE MEETINGS ANYMORE.

I HAVE MY NOVEL WORK AFTER ALL.

...
RIGHT.

I SEE.

PLUS, I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING AFTER GRADUATION.
KACHA (CLINK)


.....I SEE.

...SO I PLAN TO GET IN BY RECOMMEN-DATION.
WELL, I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD THIS ENTIRE TIME...

.....
...OH.

!

MY ACADEMIC ADVISER TOLD ME I'D PROBABLY GET IN THERE, NO QUESTION.

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE STILL SHY OF THEIR RECOMMENDATION QUOTA AT DOUMEI U.

WITH YOUR GRADES, LOTS OF UNIVERSITIES WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

Y-YEAH! OF COURSE!

BUT THAT'S IN KANSAI.

DOUMEI U...

DO—

DOKUN (BADUM)
THE OTHER OPTION IS SOUGO U.
IF I GO THERE, I CAN COMMUTE FROM HOME.
SU (SHPP)
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO.
...SO—
DOKUN
WHAT'S WRONG, RINRI-KUN?
DOKUN
IT'S ALMOST WINTER, BUT YOU'RE SWEATING LIKE CRAZY.

WELL?

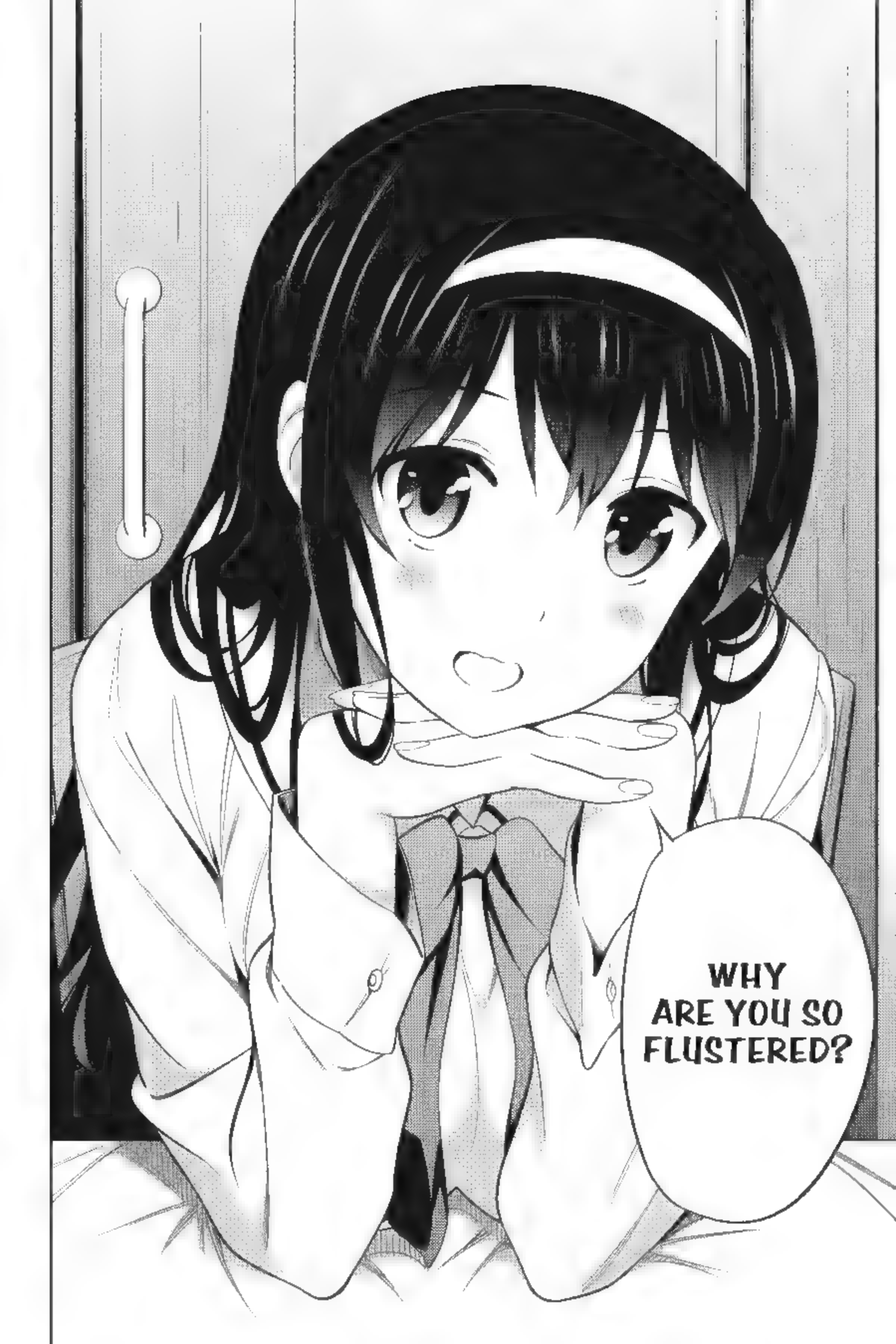
WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BETTER... RINRI-KUN?

WH-WHICH ...?

UMM ...

HEY!

WHAT'S UP?


WHY ARE YOU SO FLUSTERED?

SHE'S TEASING ME!
HUH?
C'MON!
TELL ME!
HOW COME?
GU GU GU GU GU GU GU GU GU
GU (GROWL)

OKAY.

PLEASE TAKE THIS AS JUST MY OPINION...

...BUT SINCE THAT'S ALL IT IS, I'LL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION MYSELF.

I'LL TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION...

.....

UH, UM...

HM?

AGAIN, IT'S JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION, SO I THINK YOU SHOULD CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS AS WELL AND THEN DECIDE.

I MEAN, RATHER THAN LISTEN TO A KID LIKE ME, YOU SHOULD LEND AN EAR TO SOMEONE MATURER.

I THINK... SOUOU U IS THE BETTER CHOICE.

HMM.

AND MAYBE WE COULD MAKE ANOTHER GAME OR SOMETHING TOGETHER EVEN AFTER YOU START COLLEGE.

...WELL, IT'S NEAR WHERE YOU LIVE NOW.

WHY DO YOU THINK SOUOU IS BETTER?

YOU CAN WRITE NOVELS FOR FOUR YEARS AND JUST HAVE FUN WITH THE REST OF YOUR TIME.

...AND YOU ALREADY HAVE PRO EXPERIENCE, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANY JOB HUNTING.

...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT BEING IN A LITERATURE DEPARTMENT REALLY ENTAILS...

YOU KNOW, I HEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS BASICALLY HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME...

...I'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BACK OFF.

...BUT IF YOU WERE TO SAY YOU DON'T EVER WANT TO PARTNER UP WITH ME AGAIN...

THAT MIGHT JUST BE HOW IT ENDS UP.

IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THIS YEAR MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME WE EVER MAKE A GAME TOGETHER.

EVEN SO, ROBBING YOU OF YOUR POTENTIAL...

...IS THE LAST THING I WANT.

IN THAT CASE, RINRI-KUN...

...LET ME GIVE YOU A REWARD.

GOSO (RUSTLE)

I'M SPEAKING TO UTAKO KASUMI, THE RIDDLE-MAKING NOVELIST WHO LOVES GIVING HER CHARACTERS INSINUATING LINES OF DIALOGUE IN RAPID-FIRE VOLLEYS.

OH WELL. I WAS READY FOR THIS.

NO RESPONSE TO MY OPINION... I GUESS.

KOTO (CLACK)

...THOUGH, IT MAY BE A PUNISHMENT IN SOME SENSE.

A NEARLY COMPLETE REWRITE OF THE SCENARIO I RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO YOU.

!?

WHAT ...

...IS THIS?

A SECOND TRUE ROUTE.

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

ピ
ポ
PINPOOON (DING-DONG)
HMM. THAT'S STRANGE.
THE MEETING WAS TODAY AT TEN O'CLOCK, RIGHT?
AT AKI-KUN'S HOUSE?
D-DON'T TELL ME THEY WERE OUT ALL NIGHT?
THAT THEY WERE IN A HOTEL ROOM AT DAWN DRINKING COFFEE?
UMM, ERIRI...
...YOUR ABUNDANT IMAGINATION MAY BE AN ASSET TO YOU AS AN ARTIST, BUT THE WAY YOU GET CARRIED AWAY LEADS TO A HEAP OF TROUBLE.

I'M JUST GONNA MAKE SURE HE'S REALLY NOT IN.
IF WE LEAVE NOW, IT'LL BE A HEADACHE FOR HIM, RIGHT?

BESIDES, WE'RE GETTING DANGER-OUSLY BEHIND SCHEDULE.
I GUESS SO...

A-ANYWAY, I'LL JUST GO UP TO TOMOYA'S ROOM AND HAVE A LOOK.
UH, ISN'T JUST WALKING INTO SOMEONE'S HOUSE WHEN THEY'RE OUT A BAD THING?
安 Aki 芸

COULD IT BE YOU'VE BEEN SNEAK-ING PAST HIS PARENTS NIGHT AFTER NIGHT ...!?
HANG ON, MEGUMI! WHEN DID YOU LEARN WHERE THE KEY IS!?
...DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID A FEW LINES AGO?

OKAY, YOU WAIT HERE, THEN.
THE KEY'S—
WHA—!?
OKAY, I'LL GO GRAB THE KEY.

CHAPTER
24

GUH ...!

W-WAAAH ...

SNRF!

BWAAAH ...!

NGH!

THOUGH, YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT...

UM, GOOD MORN-ING, AKI-KUN.

BUUU (HONK)

SORRY I DIDN'T HEAR THE DOORBELL.

NGH...OF COURSE. IT'S TIME FOR OUR MEETING, HUH...?

DAAAAAAA (DRIP)

あ あ あ あ あ

YOOO! YOU CAAAME!

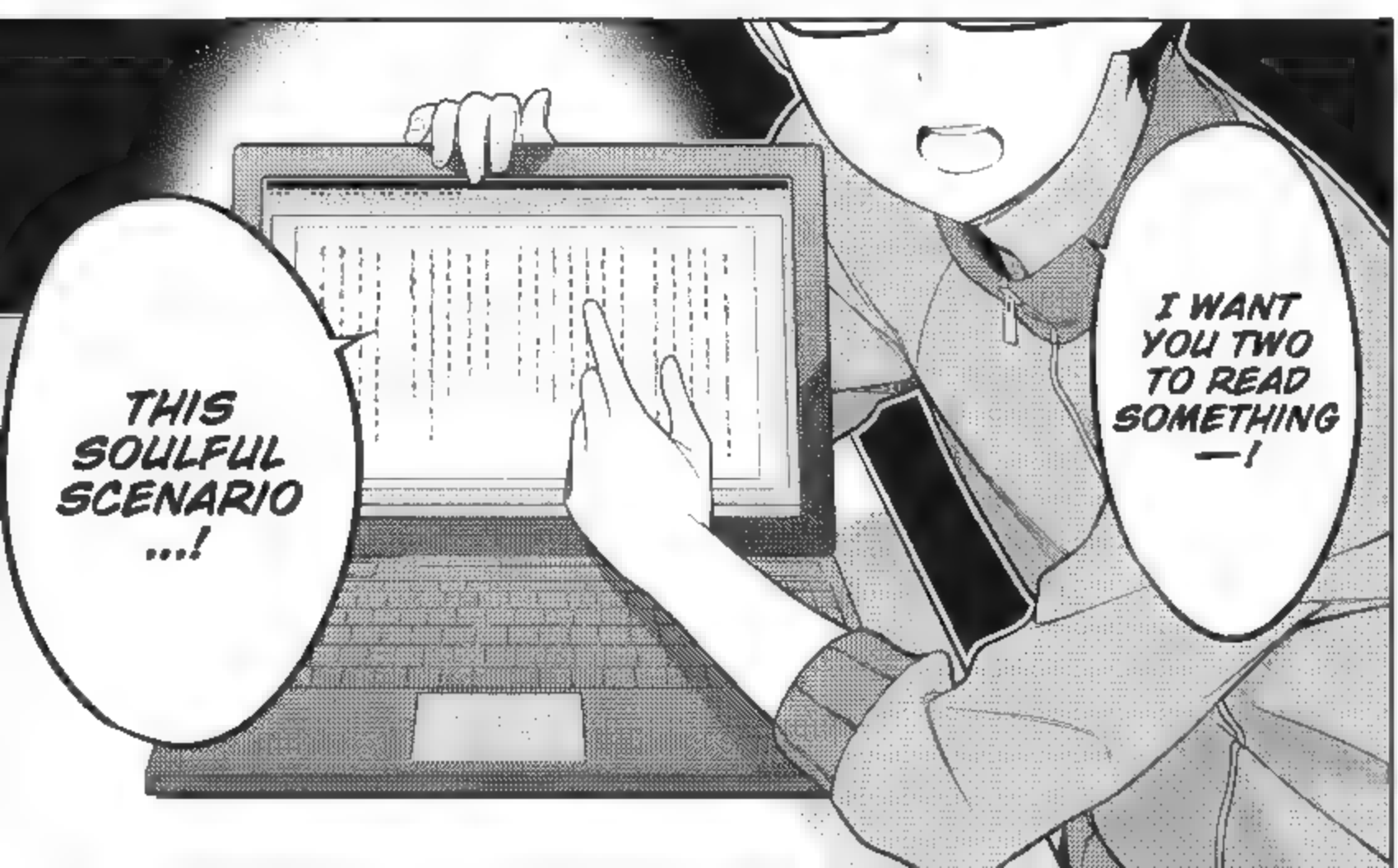
EITHER CRY OR GREET US— ONE OR THE OTHER!

S-SORRY ...
I WAS JUST SO MOVED...
!?

SO, TOMOYA ...
...WHAT'S PUT YOU IN THIS STATE?
BOSUN (WHUMF)

D-DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR MEMORIES OF LAST NIGHT'S STAY AT THE IKE-BUKURO P○○NCE HOTEL ...!?
IF YOU'RE THAT SPECIFIC, IT COULD BOOMERANG ON YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO.
GUGHI (WIPE)


I WANT YOU TWO TO READ SOMETHING —!
THIS SOULFUL SCENARIO ...!

THIRTY MINUTES LATER

...WHAT IS THIS?

...WHOA.

THIS GOES IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIRECTION FROM THE LAST ONE!

RIGHT? RIGHT!? AWESOME, ISN'T IT!?

SHE POURED HER HEART INTO IT! THIS IS THE WORK OF THE DYNAMITE AUTHOR OF HEARTBREAK, THE MISSIONARY OF TRAGIC LOVE, UTAKO KASUMI, A.K.A. UTAHA-SENPAI...

THAT IS, IF I WEREN'T THE ART DIRECTOR, AND IF I WEREN'T HAVING A VISION OF THE NUMBER OF EXTRA ILLUSTRATIONS I'LL NEED FOR ALL THESE ADDITIONS AND CHANGES AT THIS STAGE!

YES, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED!

WELL, JUST SWALLOW THAT FOR NOW AND BE MOVED BY THE SHEER QUALITY!

YES. THIS WONDERFUL TEXT SENPAI PRESENTED TO ME YESTERDAY ...

...THE SECOND SCENARIO!

WE'VE ONLY GOT A MONTH LEFT TO FINISH UP, DON'T WE? ARE YOU STUPID!? DO YOU WANT TO KILL US? ESPECIALLY ME!?

NO, FIRST OF ALL, I WANTED YOU TO JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THIS DIVINE CREATION...

SEE? SEE?

RIGHT !?

I GOT GOOSE BUMPS AT THE LAST PART.

IT'S JUST TEXT, BUT IT'S LIKE THE ART AND VOICES POP RIGHT INTO YOUR HEAD.

THE FIRST ONE WAS FINE TOO, BUT THIS ONE REALLY TAKES THE CAKE.

THIS IS GREAT.

HUH?

BUT, TOMOYA, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

...I CAN'T IMAGINE ANY GIRL WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE REFERRED TO THAT WAY.

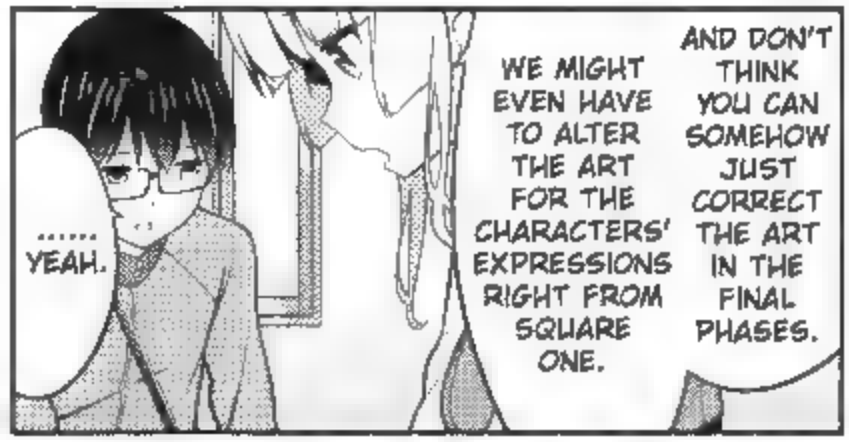
YOU THINK SO TOO!? YOUR FLAT PERSONALITY TRULY IS A GIFT FROM ON HIGH!

IT MIGHT EVEN UPEND ALL THE THEMES OF THE ORIGINAL SCENARIO.

...YEAH.

THIS CHANGES THE MEANING OF THE WORK WE'VE CREATED SO FAR, DOESN'T IT?

MEGUMI SAID IT TOO.



THIS SENSE OF LOSS! THIS HEART-BREAK! THIS FRESH-NESS— WHAT IS IT...?

ENOUGH ALREADY!

IT'S GOT THE SMELL OF *METRONOME IN LOVE*- ERA UTAKO KASUMI ALL OVER IT!

SO YOU ARE A FAN! I KNEW IT!

SHUT UP!

GEEZ...!

WITH A SCENARIO LIKE THIS, IT'LL BECOME AN UTAKO KASUMI GAME THROUGH AND THROUGH IF WE PLAY IT WRONG...

ANY SHADES OF ERI KASHI-WAGI WILL BE WIPED OUT.

WELL, YOU'D BETTER NOT SLACK OFF!

I NEVER PLANNED TO.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR HAVING...

...SUCH A SERIOUS CREW.

OR YOU CAN BRING IN THE PERSON WHO ACTUALLY WROTE IT TO VOTE WITH YOU...

...BUT I DON'T SEE HER AROUND ANYWHERE TODAY.

WELL... HER WORK IS DONE ...

...AND SHE'S VERY CLOSE TO THE DEADLINE ON HER NOVEL.

NO. THIS TIME, YOU NEED TO DECIDE, AS THE PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR.

AND WE STAFF MEMBERS HAVE TO SHUT UP AND ACCEPT YOUR DECISION.

UGH .....

IF SHE LEFT IT ENTIRELY TO YOUR DISCRETION, THEN FULFILL YOUR DUTY...

... "RINRI-KUN."

ONE HOUR LATER

KACHI

KACHI (CLICK)

NN~! HRM...

HMM ... MM...

KARI

KARI (SCRITCH)

NNN~! HRM...

MMMNN...

WOULD YOU SHUT UP, TOMOYA !?

ENOUGH WITH THE POINTLESS MUTTERING! YOU'RE BUGGING ME!

WHICH VERSION SHOULD WE USE?

I'VE BEEN SWEATING THIS FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR...

ONCE IT GETS TO YOU, THERE'S NO CURE FOR IT!

OH! YEAH, YEAH! SNORING TOO!

I CAN FALL ASLEEP WITH THE TV ON, NO PROBLEM, BUT IF THERE'S A MOSQUITO FLYING AROUND, I CAN'T SLEEP AT ALL!

YES, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

...'KAY.

SO, THEN, SHUD-DUP.

BUT FOR A TRUE ROUTE THAT REALLY GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND, THEN IT'S NO DOUBT THE SECOND.

BETTER OVERALL BALANCE GOES TO THE FIRST ONE.

THE FIRST VERSION IS MORE MOE. THE SECOND VERSION IS A TEAR-JERKER.

ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT, DOUBLE CLICK THE ONE THAT'S GOT ".EXE" IN THE FILE NAME.

THERE SHOULD BE A TEXT FILE NAMED "READ ME" OR SOMETHING IN THE EXTRACTED FOLDER.

HM? OH.

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS.

HUH?

HOW DO I INSTALL THIS?

WHAT'S WITH THAT "YANDERE CHARACTER WHO'S MONITORING HER BOYFRIEND" BEHAVIOR !?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT WAS FROM A SITE BOOK-MARKED ON YOUR PC.

DID YOU DOWN-LOAD SOME-THING?
IT'S NOT ANYTHING DIRTY, IS IT?

DOKI (JOLT)
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, AKI-KUN...
...DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ERIRI TODAY?

KARI
KARI (SCRITCH)

HM?
LIKE, WHEN ERIRI COMES OVER, ISN'T SHE ALWAYS IN SWEATS?
MM.
BUT TODAY, IT'S LIKE SHE'S HAD SOME VERSION UPGRADE, OR SHE'S A DIFFERENT MODEL.

WHA—? HANG ON! MEGUMI !?

YA PROMISED ME YA WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT TODAY, DIDN'T YA!?

DANGIT, I TOLD YA NOT TO DO THAT —!

HMM.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

...LOOKING AT IT WITH A COOL HEAD, IT'S SO DEEP AND COMPLEX THAT IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND. AND IN A SUBTLE WAY, IT SORTA DEVIATES FROM THIS GAME'S ORIGINAL BRIEF TO "CREATE A CAPTIVATING MAIN HEROINE."

AND, AFTER READING THE FIRST ONE, THE STORY IN THE SECOND IS PROFOUNDER, RICHER, AND HAS MORE "WOW" FACTOR, BUT...

IT'S STILL GOOD, BUT IT LACKS SURPRISE. MAYBE IT'S TRYING TOO HARD TO PLEASE EVERYONE. MAYBE IT'S KINDA BLAND.

AFTER READING VERSION TWO, THE STORY IN THE FIRST VERSION FEELS A LITTLE SHALLOW.

OH NO! WE'VE LOST TRACK OF THEM!

WHY DON'T YOU TRY THIS BLOUSE TOO?

BUT YOU WENT THROUGH ALL THAT STRESS TO CHOOSE IT YESTERDAY. DON'T YOU WANT HIS OPINION?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY ANY-THING ...!

...I CHOSE IT 'COS YOU ASKED ME TO... SO YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT CLOTHES AS FAR AS THEY GIVE YOU A STRONG PERSONALITY? YOU'RE STRANGE IN SO MANY WAYS...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CHOSE THIS ORDINARY DRESS THAT'S DOING NOTHING FOR MY CHARACTER TO BEGIN WITH.

ASKING A 2-D-OBSESSED, CREEPY OTAKU HIS OPINION ON CLOTHES IS GUARANTEED MUTUAL MISERY!

HMM.

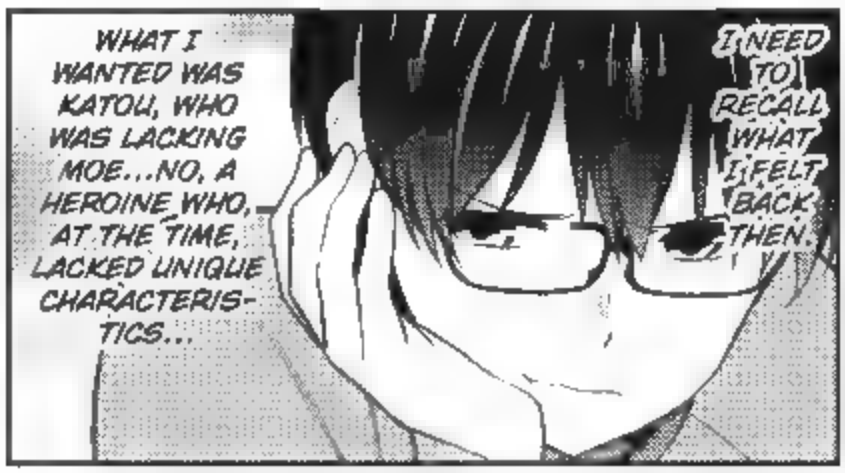
RIGHT. THE SECOND VERSION...

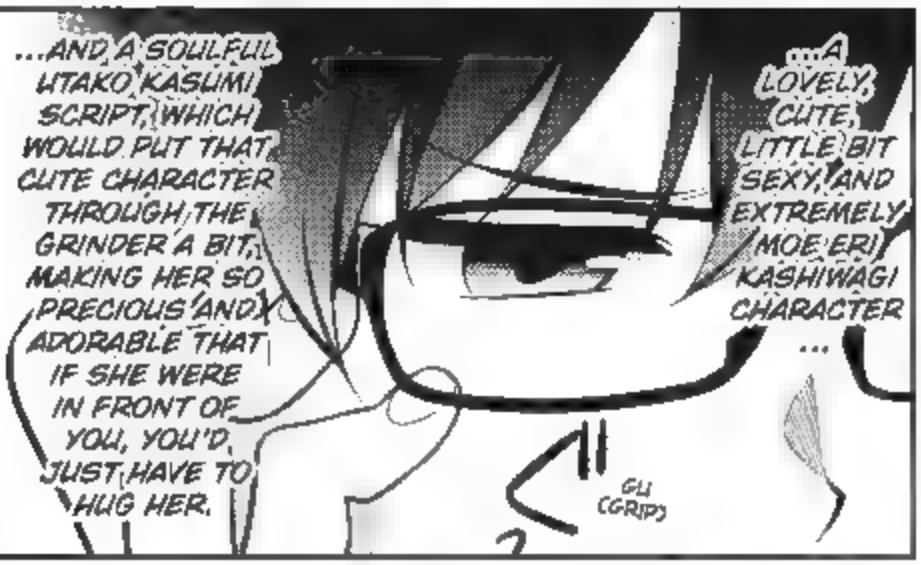
...IS "STRAIGHT-UP UTAKO KASUMI!"

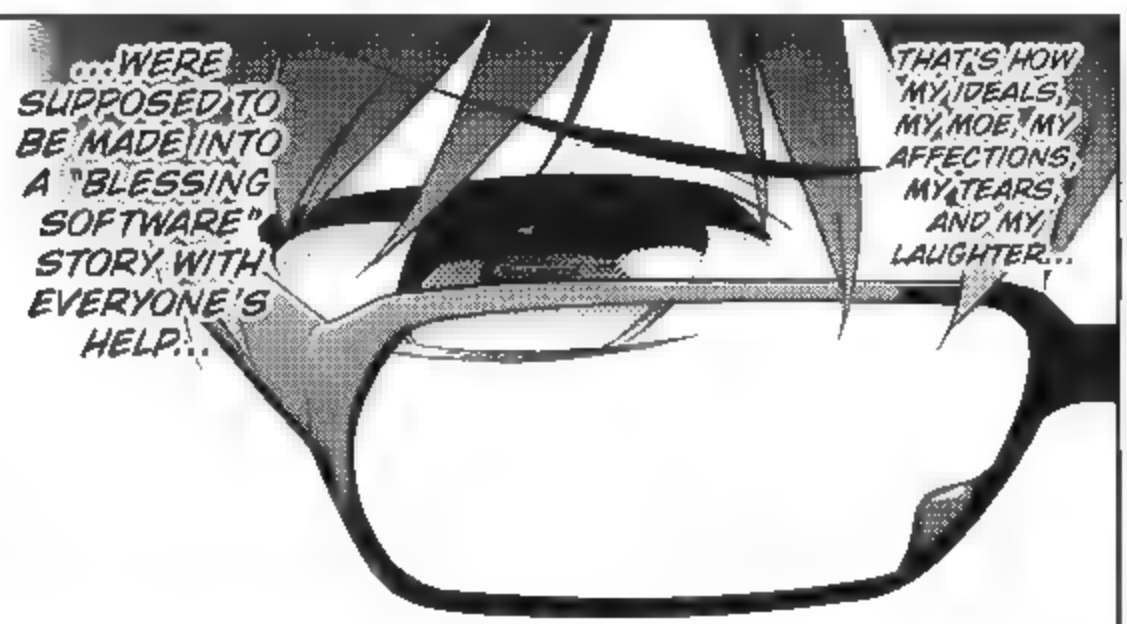
...BUT DID I WANT FULL-ON UTAKO KASUMI FOR MY GAME?

I AM A FAN OF UTAKO KASUMI TO BE SURE...

...A METRONOME IN LOVE DIEHARD...







PA (WHAP)
PA
WHY, YOOOU —!
WHOOOA!

BARA (SCATTER) 5

SHUT UP!

BARA 5

YOU TELL ME NOT TO GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR WORK, BUT THEN YOU TURN AROUND AND DO THE SAME THING TO ME...!

WH-WHERE'D THAT COME FROM!?

YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, RIGHT? TELL ME.

WH-WHAT ...?

SO WHAT IS IT?

HUH!?

ERR ...!

I WAS CONCEN-TRATING AND IN-CREDIBLY DEEP IN THOUGHT. SOMEONE TOLD ME I NEEDED TO FULFILL MY RESPONSI-BILITIES.

...DID YOU NOT HEAR ANY OF THAT CONVER-SATION JUST NOW?

KAAAAAAA (BLUSH)
UM, ERM...
MM...
WHAT'S UP?

SO, I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE TELL ME AGAIN FROM THE START.

ME—
MEGU-MIII~!

URK ...!
POINTLESS MUTTERING BUGS YOU, DOESN'T IT?

GURU (SPIN)
UHH, ERR...
GURU
IN OTHER WORDS, BASI-CALLY...
GURU
...TO CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE...

MEGUMI!?
I JUST FINISHED INSTALLING THE TRIAL VERSION OF THE GAME I DOWN-LOADED.
OH, SORRY, ERIRI. DON'T BOTHER ME RIGHT NOW.
NOW, IT WAS THE .EXE FILE, RIGHT?

DOKIKI (JOLT)

WH-WHAT!?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

UGH ...

...I FEEL LIKE YOU SAID EVERY-THING BUT YOUR MAIN POINT...

HM? HANG ON A SECOND?

OH! SHE'S SUDDENLY CALMED DOWN!

...STARTED ALMOST A MONTH AGO.

.....THAT...

YOU STARTED CALLING EACH OTHER BY YOUR FIRST NAMES!

YOU AND KATOU HAVE BECOME AWFULLY FRIENDLY WITHOUT MY NOTICING.

HUH?

...I HOPE YOU TWO CAN CONTINUE TO BE FR—

WELL, THAT ASIDE, ERIRI...

PERHAPS WE NEED TO INVESTI-GATE JUST WHOSE SETTING WAS RESPON-SIBLE FOR THAT?

OH? WELL, IT'S NICE TO SEE.

WHEN YOU FIRST MET, YOU SEEMED TO LEAVE BAD IM-PRESSIONS ON EACH OTHER.

IS THIS ATTACK ON A TIME DELAY!?

HEY, YOU'RE WEARING ORDINARY CLOTHES LIKE KATOU TODAY!

GYU (GRIP)
TH—
THIS IS...
UM... YESTER-DAY...
...I WENT TO PA○CO IN IKE-BUKURO WITH MEGUMI ...
WOW! THAT'S A SURPRISE.
YOU NEVER WEAR ANYTHING BUT TAILORED CLOTHES OR YOUR UNIFORM.

Y-YOU THINK IT SUITS ME...!?

WELL, YOU LEFT IT UP TO KATOU'S FASHION SENSE, RIGHT?

BUT YOU TOTALLY WEAR IT LIKE IT'S YOURS.

TH-THAT'S WHY...

DOKI

DOKI (BADUMP)

...IT WAS SORT OF THE FIRST TIME I'VE CHOSEN MY OWN CLOTHES.

A B— BEAU ...

DOKI

"SUITS" YOU ...?

YOU LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER 3-D BEAUTY.

ERIRI?

...YOU MEAN ...

S-SO...

KATOU ?

ME-GUMI! WHY ARE YOU CUTTING IN AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT ...!?

BUT—! BUT... LOOK!

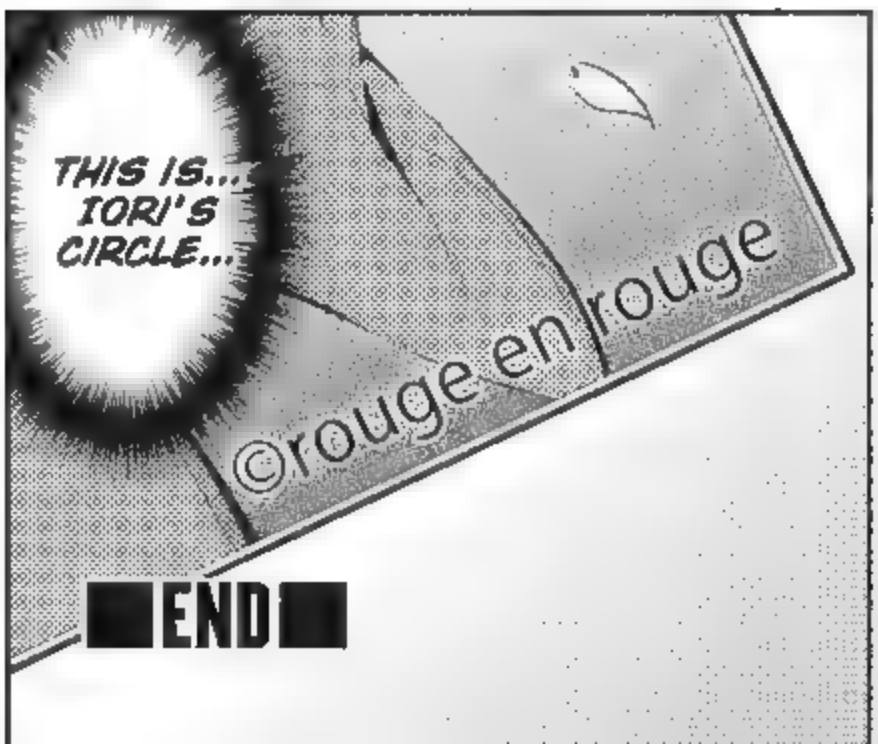
YOU GUYS! LOOK AT THIS!

H-HOLD ON!

SO... ... YOU'RE SAYING ...

THE TRIAL VERSION OF THE GAME I DOWN-LOADED—

ISN'T THIS IZUMI-CHAN'S ARTWORK ...?



YO.

LONG TIME NO SEE, TOMOYA-KUN.

AND YOU TOO, ERI KASHIWAGI-SENSEI.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...?

HOW COME YOU'RE HERE INSTEAD OF IZUMI-CHAN...

...IORI!?

CHAPTER
25

BUT, YOU KNOW ...
...YOU REACHED OUT TO OUR CIRCLE'S E-MAIL, DIDN'T YOU?
"HOW COME"?
YOU ASKED US HERE, TOMOYA-KUN.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOU!
WHERE'S IZUMI-CHAN!?
TOMOYA, WHOA, WHOA.
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT SPAM, OR A TROLL, OR A STALKER, OR A REQUEST FOR ART FOR A SOCIAL GAME AT A RIDICULOUSLY LOW FEE, LIKE, ¥8,000 PER DRAWING, YOU HAVE TO FORWARD—
WHAT? SO YOUR CIRCLE DOESN'T PASS ON FAN MAIL TO THE CREATORS!?
BUT I ADDRESSED MY MESSAGE "TO IZUMI HASHIMA-SAMA"!
BUT THE FIRST ONE WHO SEES IT IS THE SITE ADMINISTRATOR— ME.
THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN GREATER THAN EXPECTED... WE'VE HAD MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND DOWNLOADS OF THE TRIAL, AND— THOUGH IT WAS JUST FOR AN INSTANT— WE WERE EVEN TRENDING IN REAL-TIME SEARCHES. SO WE'RE LOOKING GOOD RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE.
IORI ...!
THANK YOU, TOMOYA-KUN.
WELL, FROM WHAT I SAW, IT SEEMS YOU WERE QUICK TO PLAY...
...THE TRIAL VERSION OF ROUGE EN ROUGE'S NEW GAME FOR WINTER COMIKET.

ETERNAL AND EPHEMERAL ÉVANGILE—

...BUT I GUESS WHEN A POPULAR GENRE IS BRIMMING WITH ALL THE STANDARD FEATURES— TEARS, PASSION, MOE—IT ENDS UP STRONG ENOUGH TO TRANSCEND THE AGES, HUH?

I WAS A BIT WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER PEOPLE WOULD STILL ACCEPT A SCI-FI/FANTASY ADVENTURE GAME IN THIS DAY AND AGE ...

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO OPEN ABOUT PICKING A FIGHT WITH US, DO YOU!?

AND DON'T CALL IT A COINCI-DENCE ...!

YOU KNEW WHAT OUR GAME WAS ABOUT, DIDN'T YOU!?

I DIDN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD GO THIS FAR!

THIS FORMER FRIEND OF MINE...

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D LEAVE IZUMI-CHAN OUT OF YOUR UGLY, BLACKENED, DESPICABLE AMBITIONS !?

DIDN'T YOU SAY AT SUMMER COMIKET THAT IZUMI-CHAN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR CIRCLE?

NO...

HM? SOMETHING WRONG ?

HOW MANY EX-COSPLAYERS, ASPIRING VOICE ACTORS, AND FEMALE SWIPE ARTISTS HAS HE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF...?

HE'LL USE MONEY, CONNECTIONS, AND ALL SORTS OF DIRTY TRICKS FOR THE SAKE OF FAME AND PRESTIGE. BUT I BELIEVED HE WOULD ONLY USE THEM AGAINST BAD PEOPLE...

...IT WAS WHAT THE GAME'S ARTIST, IZUMI, REALLY WANTED.

WELL ...

BUT... WHO DO YOU MEAN ...?

ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK I'M DOING ANYTHING SO TERRIBLE THAT IT DESERVES A MONOLOGUE.

GRAARGH!

AAGH! YOU PISS ME OFF SO MUCH!

RIGHT, IZUMI?

HUH !?

AFTER ALL, I THINK WE COULD HAVE USED ANY GENRE...

...BUT THE MOTIVATION OF THE MAIN STAFF TOOK PRIORITY.

LONG TIME NO SEE, SENPAI...

IZUMI... CHAN?

WHY ARE YOU ...?

'COS...

...IF I DIDN'T...

...I COULDN'T COMPETE AGAINST SAWA-MURA-SENPAI...

!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, TOMOYA-KUN?

OUR GAME WAS IZUMI'S WISH.

ENOUGH OF YOUR LIES!

E—

IN THE END, WE HAD TO POACH THE ENTIRE TEAM FROM A FAMOUS GAME CIRCLE TO DO IT.

BUT THAT MADE THINGS VERY DIFFICULT. FINDING WRITERS WHO COULD CREATE A SCI-FI/FANTASY GAME IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD WAS NOT EASY...

SHE WANTED TO TAKE ON YOUR CIRCLE UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS.

NO. IT REALLY WAS IZUMI WHO SAID SHE WANTED THIS...

YOU TRICKED IZUMI-CHAN AND MANIPULATED HER INTO DOING WHAT YOU WANTED!

NO MATTER HOW UNDERHANDED I SEEM, I CAN SAY WITH PRIDE THAT I DON'T LIE.

AHEM!

SOMETHING ABOUT... THE VIBE AROUND HER...

IZUMI-CHAN...

WHY!? WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT, IZUMI-CHAN ...!?

YO! LONG TIME NO SEE, IZUMI-CHAN!

HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?

I'M SO SORRY WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH SINCE SUMMER COMIKET — WELL, I'VE BEEN BUSY MYSELF!

OH NO! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, SENPAI!

I TOTALLY FAILED TO STAY IN TOUCH TOO!

LEAD AC-TRESS? WHO'S THAT?

BOSO (MUTTER)

BUT...

...MY BROTHER SAID, "THE LEAD ACTRESS ALWAYS ARRIVES LATE."

NEVER! I'M THE LAST PERSON WHO WOULD EVER GIVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER, TOMOYA-SENPAI!

SO WHY WERE YOU HIDING BACK THERE?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE IGNORING ME— WHAT A SHOCK.

SO THAT'S WHY SHE'S DRESSED LIKE THAT! AN ENTIRELY OVERDONE VILLAIN ENTRANCE SCENE!

KUH ...!

I FIGURED YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD GET THE AESTHETICS BEHIND IT.

I JUST REALLY WANTED TO CREATE A SCENE WHERE A FALLEN CHARACTER MAKES THEIR ENTRANCE!

HA HA HA!

WELL!

SO YOU DID PLOT ALL THIS!

SEN-PAI...

IZUMI-CHAN! YOU'VE BEEN DECEIVED!

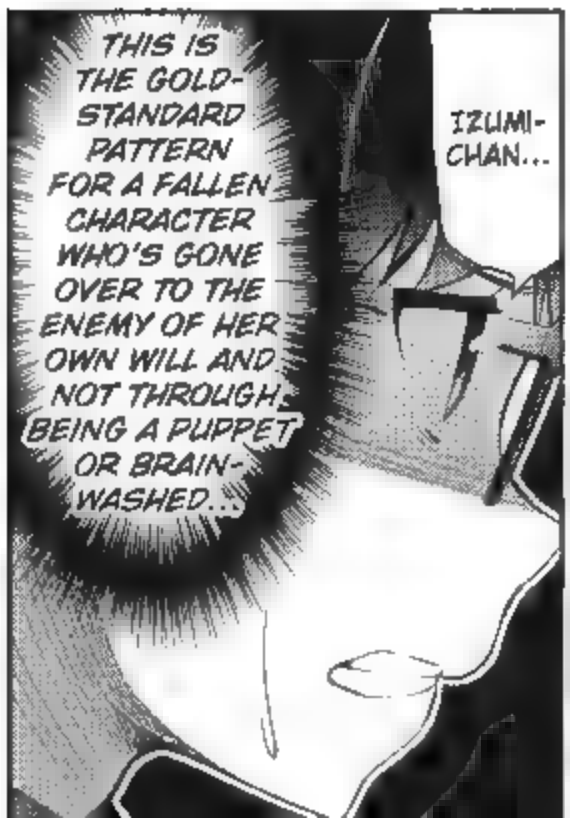
YOU STARTED MAKING DOUJINSHI 'COS YOU WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH OTHER *LITRHAP* FANS, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU DON'T DO IT TO BE POPULAR OR FOR MONEY ...!

YOU MAKE DOUJIN JUST 'COS YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE THE SERIES YOU LOVE, RIGHT?

REMEMBER!

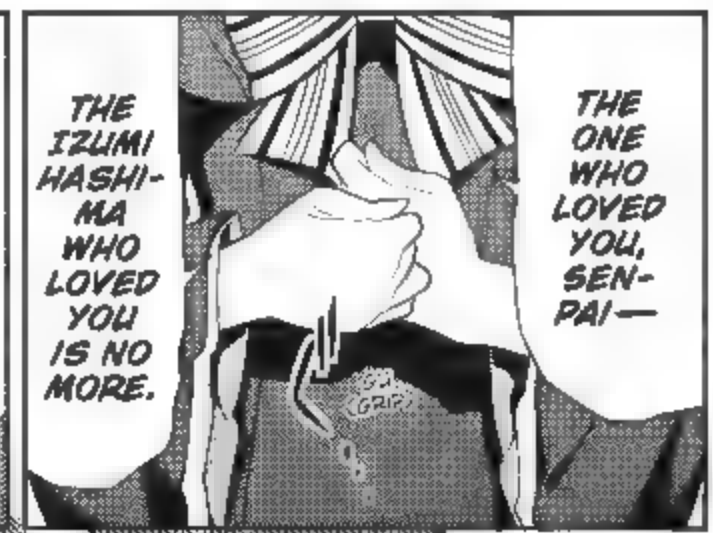
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO READ YOUR DOUJINSHI AND THE SMILES THAT CAME FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS!



HEY, SENPAI ...

...I'M NO LONGER THE KOUHAI YOU ONCE KNEW, TOMOYA-SENPAI.

うる URU (TEARY)



WAAHH!
AH HA HA HA HA!
YOU THREE SEEM TO BE HAVING AN AWFUL LOT OF FUN.
AND SO, NOW, I CAN FINALLY TAKE YOU ON, SAWAMURA-SENPAI.
NO!
GUSU (SNIFF)
AH HA HA HA HA!
AH HA HA HA ...!
HOW UNFORTUNATE, HUH, TOMOYA-KUN?
IZUMI-CHAAAAN!
THAT SUMMER YOU SOLD MY BOOKS FOR ME WAS THE HAPPIEST TIME OF MY LIFE ...!
(ETC.) #3
GOT-WAY-TOO (ETC.) #2
GOT-WAY-TOO-CARRIED-AWAY PERSON #1

(WHOOSH)
ERI KASHI-WAGI ...!

OW!
POFU (WHAP)
SARA (SWISH)
I SEE. SO YOU'RE NOW THE LEAD ARTIST FOR ROUGE EN ROUGE ...

HEH...

...!
TEE-HEE!
...WELL, I'M SURE YOUR BROTHER DRAGGED YOU INTO IT THOUGH.

HUH? WHAT THE —? WHY IS SHE SO COLD?
ERIRI!?

AH! SHE'S IN LADY MODE!
KIRA (SPARKLE)
KIRA
KIRA
CONGRAT-ULATIONS. YOU'VE MADE QUITE SOME PROGRESS IN JUST A FEW SHORT MONTHS.

BACH
BACH (CRACKLE)
BACH
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING AGAIN ...?
ERIRI, YOU APOL-OGIZED AFTER COMIKET, DIDN'T YOU?
THE DAY AFTER COMIKET
UH...
ER...
UM...

WHAAAAT!?

EGOISTIC LILY?

I'M SORRY, IZUMI-SAN...

I'M SORRY FOR HURTING YOU LIKE THAT.

N—

NO, NOT AT ALL!

...ARE ERI KASHI-WAGI, THE MADONNA OF SHIMA-MURA MIDDLE SCHOOL ...!?

BUT TO THINK YOU, SAWA-MURA-SENPAI ...

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN EVER FORGIVE ME, BUT I TRULY REGRET MY ACTIONS.

REFUSING A BOOK IS ABOUT THE RUDEST, MOST INSULTING THING YOU CAN DO TO AN AUTHOR...

PEOPLE STILL TALK ABOUT ME LIKE THAT EVEN NOW, SO TAKE IT EASY!

SHUT IT!

HISO (WHISPER)

HISO

DID YOU REALLY HAVE SUCH AN EMBARRASSING NICKNAME BACK THEN?

HUH ...?

I LEARNED THAT AFTER READING YOUR BOOK.

PLEASE DON'T CALL ME "SENSEI" ...

I'M NOT WORTHY OF BEING CALLED THAT YET...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SAWAMURA-SEN— KASHIWAGI-SENSEI!?

WHA—!?

TO BE FRANK... I WAS AFRAID OF YOUR BOOK.

OH...

YES!

BY ALL MEANS!

AH!

AH.

...BUT COULD I GET ANOTHER COPY OF YOUR BOOK?

...AND MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY LEFT...

I KNOW I'M LATE ...

THAT'S NOT FOR MINORS, SO NO TRADING.

YOU CAN HAVE IT WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT.

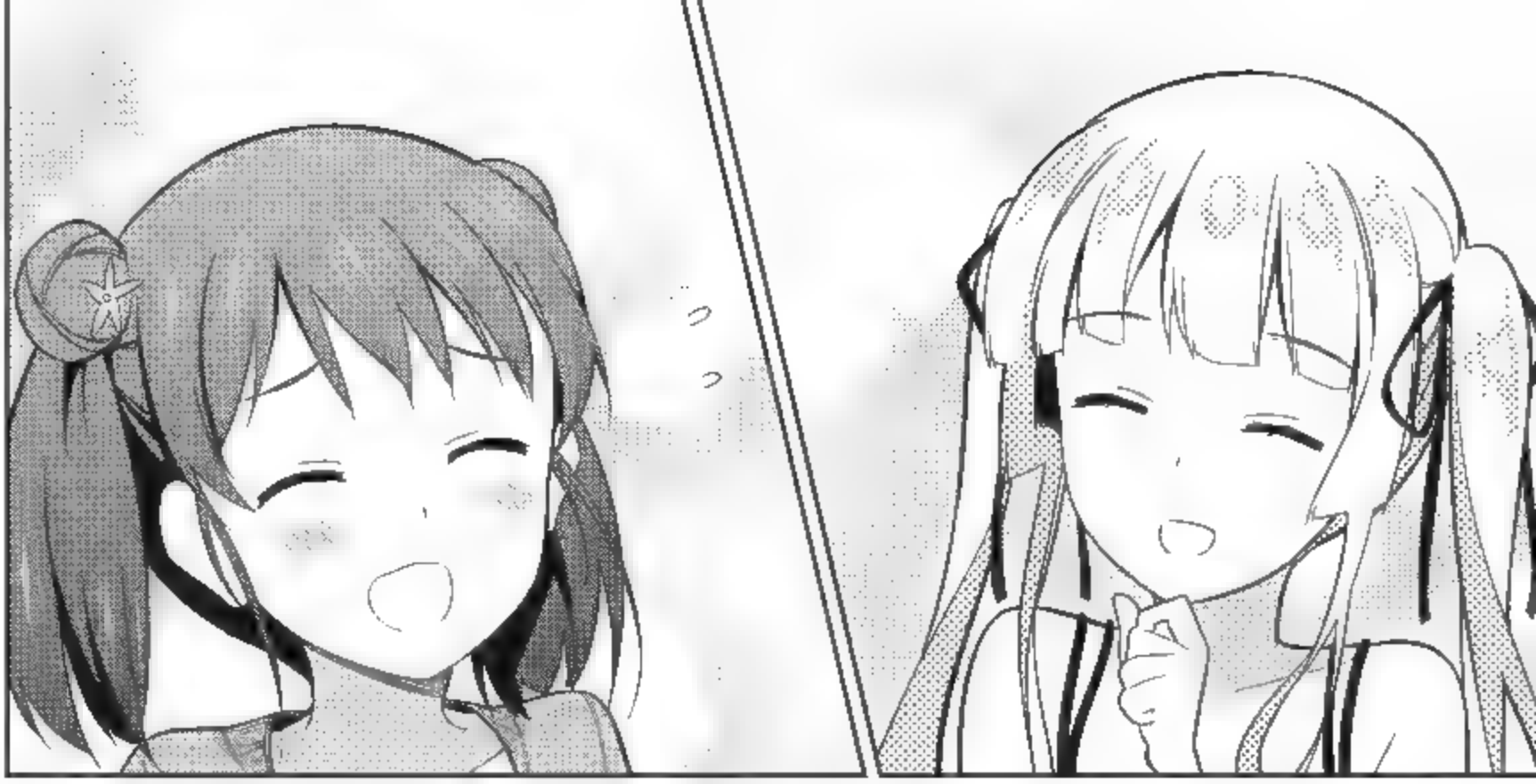
HOI (CHANK)

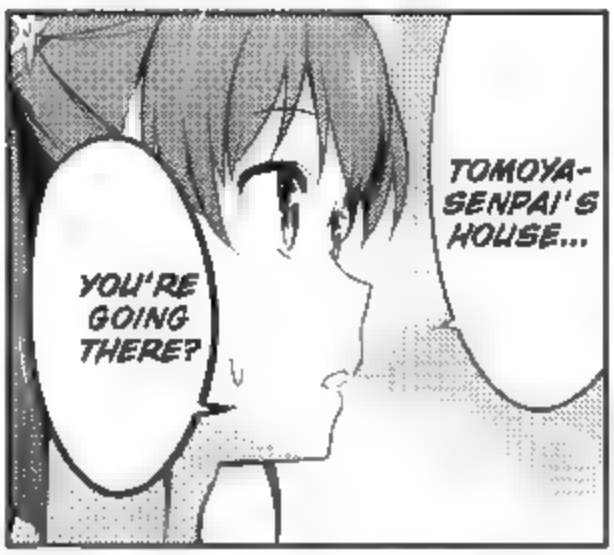
I-I'M HONORED!

GAH!

THANK YOU ...!

OKAY, I'LL TRADE YOU FOR ONE OF MINE.




TOMOYA-SENPAI'S HOUSE...
YOU'RE GOING THERE?

WHAT IS IT, IZUMI-SAN?

EH?
WELL... WE'D BETTER HEAD OFF TO YOUR PLACE, TOMOYA.

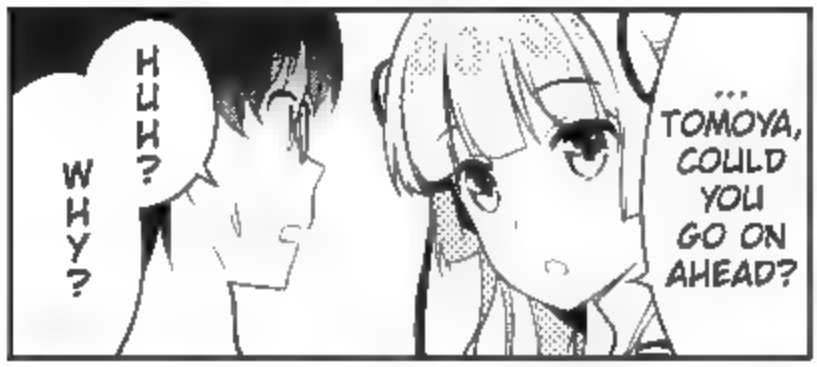
I WONDER IF I'LL ACTUALLY BE HOME BEFORE MORNING THIS TIME...
!

YEAH.
WE HAVE A CIRCLE MEETING.

OH, THAT'S IT.
I SEE ...

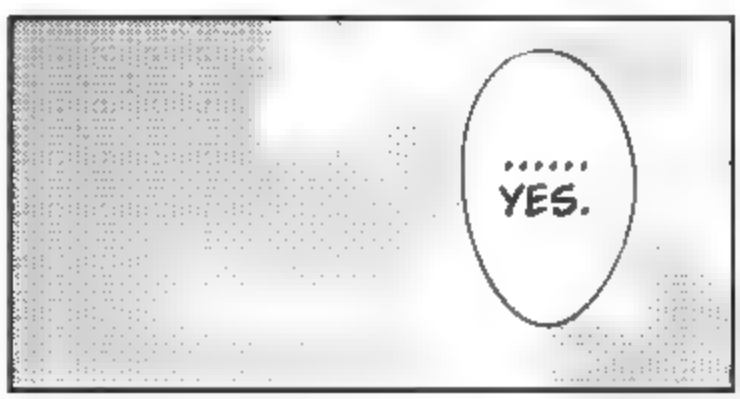
WHAT'S WRONG?

...YOU'RE GOING TO STAY OVER?


...TOMOYA, COULD YOU GO ON AHEAD?
HUH? WHY?

HUH...? IZUMI-CHAN?
.....

WE'D JUST LIKE TO CHAT ALONE FOR A MINUTE.
!
RIGHT?


.....YES.

OH YEAH, IZUMI-CHAN?

YOU SEE... I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU...
...FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

HM?
I'M SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU.
NOW, HERE'S THE MAIN ISSUE...

YES... MAYBE EVEN BEFORE YOU KNEW ME...

...MM-HM.

... KNOWN ABOUT ME FOR THAT LONG?

HAVE YOU...

...I'D LIKE YOU TO ACCEPT THIS.

AND SO, TO COMMEMORATE OUR FINALLY CHATTING...

SAWA-MURA-SENPAI ...?

PLEASE TAKE IT... I DREW IT JUST FOR YOU.

Y-YOU CAN'T WASTE THIS ON ME!

WH-WHAT IS THIS?

... IZUMI ... ...HA-SHI-MA-SAN!

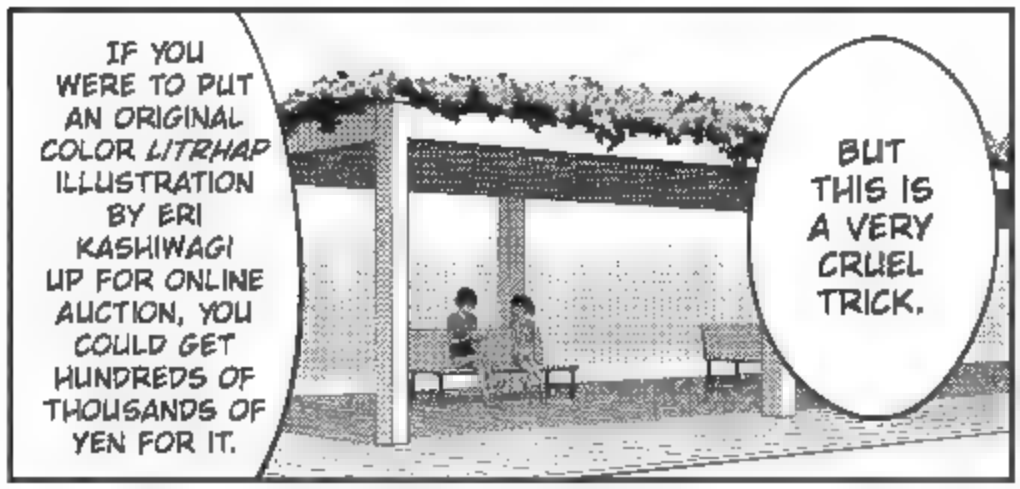
WELL, SEE YOU...

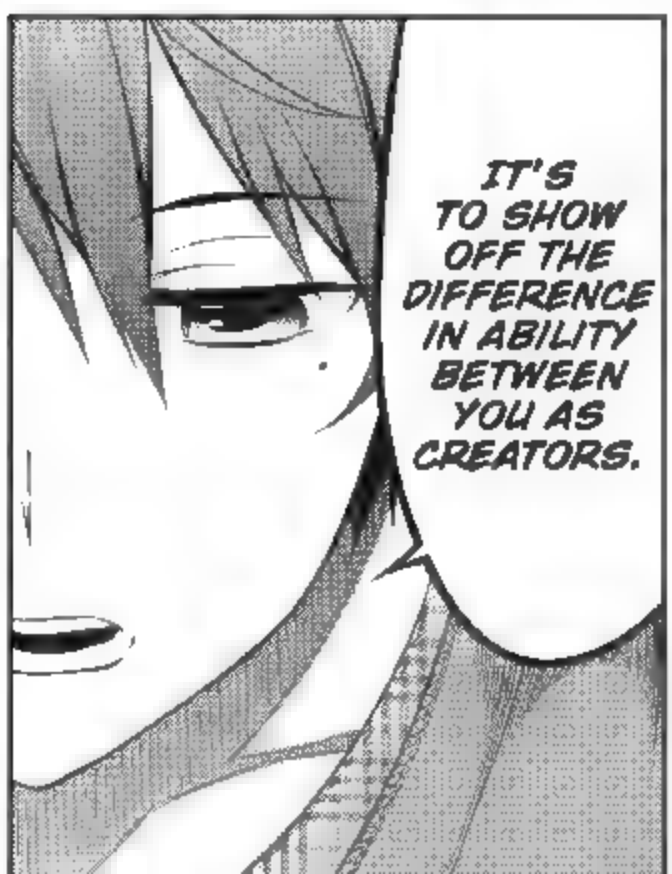
I WAS INSPIRED BY YOUR ART...

...AND I DREW THAT LAST NIGHT.

AND IT'S IN FULL COLOR, NO LESS!

AH-HA-HA...! SHE SURE PUT A LOT OF SPIRIT INTO THIS ILLUS-TRATION!

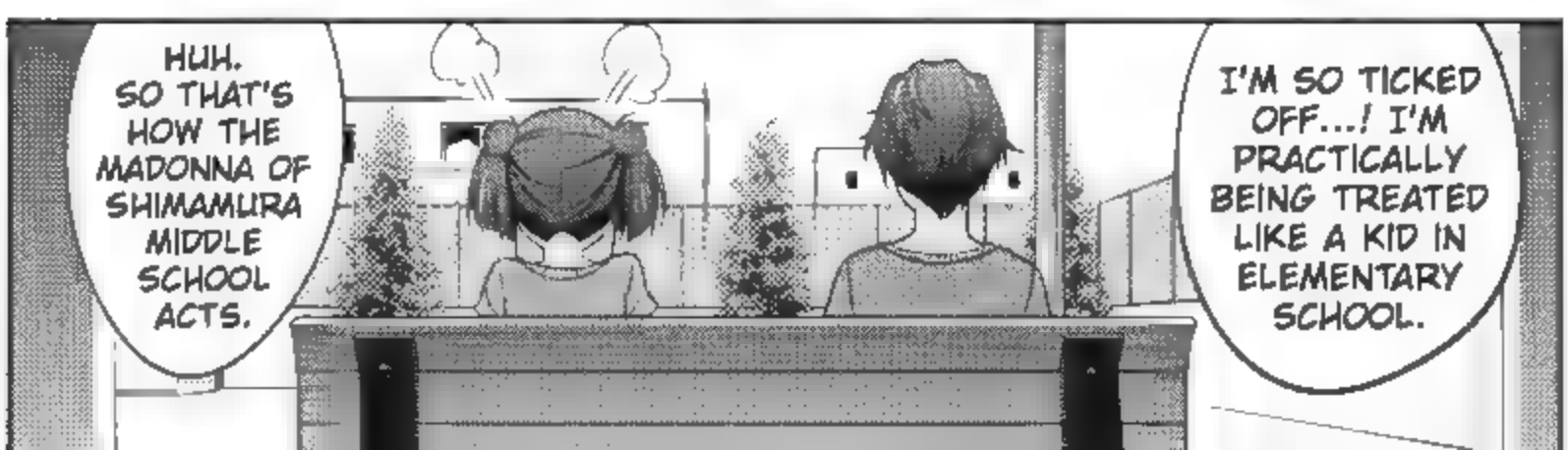




.....

NO IDEA.
WHAT'S SHE AFTER ...?
WOW. A "SERVIS AND HEROINE" PAIRING, HUH?

WELL, THERE ARE MANY CHILDISH CREATORS OUT THERE.
THAT WOMAN ...
...IS SO IMMA-TURE!
.....
SAWA-MURA-SENPAI... ARGH!


HUH. SO THAT'S HOW THE MADONNA OF SHIMAMURA MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTS.
I'M SO TICKED OFF...! I'M PRACTICALLY BEING TREATED LIKE A KID IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

I DON'T WANT...

...TO LOSE TO HER!

WHY ARE YOU SO MIFFED?

YOU THINK YOU CAN STAND UP TO HER?

I DON'T KNOW ...

I DON'T KNOW, BUT —!

...YOU HAVE...

...TWO PATHS OPEN TO YOU.

... HEH!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY !?

AH HA HA HA HA!

AH HA!

NO, IT'S JUST... IZUMI ...

GISHI (CREAK)

ONE IS TO KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING... DRAWING AS A HOBBY AND SCRAPING BY IN YOUR CIRCLE OF ONE.

AND THE OTHER IS...

...TO TAKE A CHANCE ON TRAVELING THE VERY SHORTEST ROUTE ALONGSIDE THE MOST POWERFUL PRODUCER.

ONII-CHAN?

...IZUMI.

IT'S UP TO YOU TO CHOOSE ...

I'M UP AGAINST "ROUGE EN ROUGE"!
...!
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY GO EASY ON YOU!?

...
KASHI-WAGI-SAN?
WILL YOU TAKE ME ON SERIOUSLY AT WINTER COMIKET, WITHOUT HOLDING BACK...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A HANDICAP YOU GIVE ME, I HAVE ZERO INTENTION OF LOSING.
IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT, IS IT?

CIRCLES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
...!
IF I DON'T PROVE I'M BETTER THAN YOU, THEN I'LL LOSE BASED ON THE SIZES OF OUR CIRCLES.

AT LEAST TRY NOT TO BE CRUSHED BY THE WEIGHT OF ITS REPUTATION, OKAY?
WELL, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, IZUMI-CHAN OF "ROUGE EN ROUGE."

I'VE BEEN WORKING MYSELF TO THE BONE SINCE THEN!
...!
PLEASE DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!

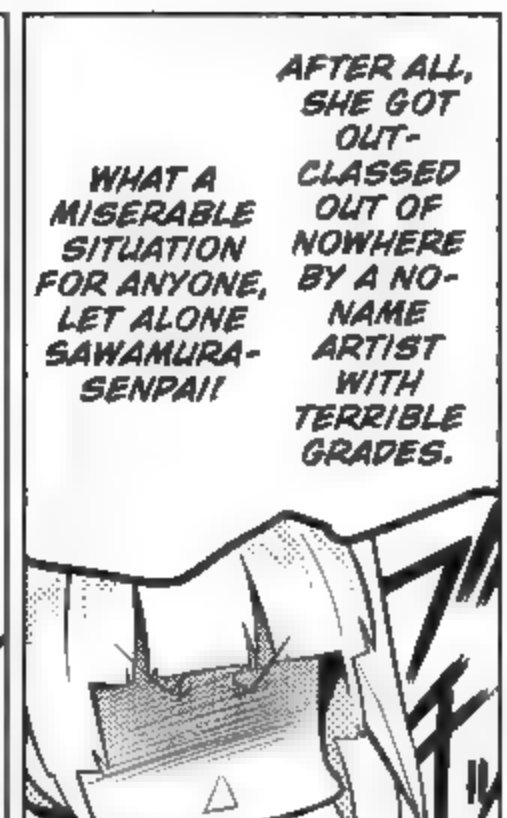
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT?

YOU SAID YOU WERE SORRY, DIDN'T YOU?

WH-WHOA! HANG ON THERE, ERIRI!

DO

DO (RUMBLE)



SFX: BUCHI (SNAP)

どーん
DOOON (DUNNN)
EVEN HE CAN'T HANDLE THIS SCENE!

UMM, IT'S TIME WE GOT A MOVE ON, ERIRI.
ZEE (WHEEZE)
ぜぇぜぇ
...OKAY.

YES. LET'S GO HOME, ONII-CHAN.
HFF!
HFF!
ERR, SHALL WE HEAD OFF, THEN, IZUMI?

IT'S ON AT WINTER COMIKET, TOMOYA-KUN.
よぇ
YOSO
OH, SURE.
YOSO (NOD)
よぇ
ISO (BOW)
いそ
ISO
いそ
SEE YOU LATER, THEN!
ERR, UM!

NO MATTER WHAT TACTICS YOU USE...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT "BLESSING SOFTWARE"!

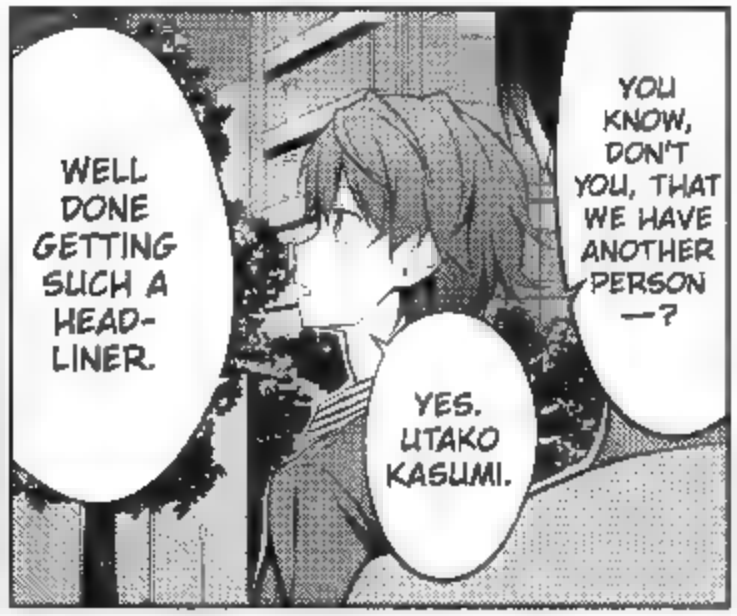
.....

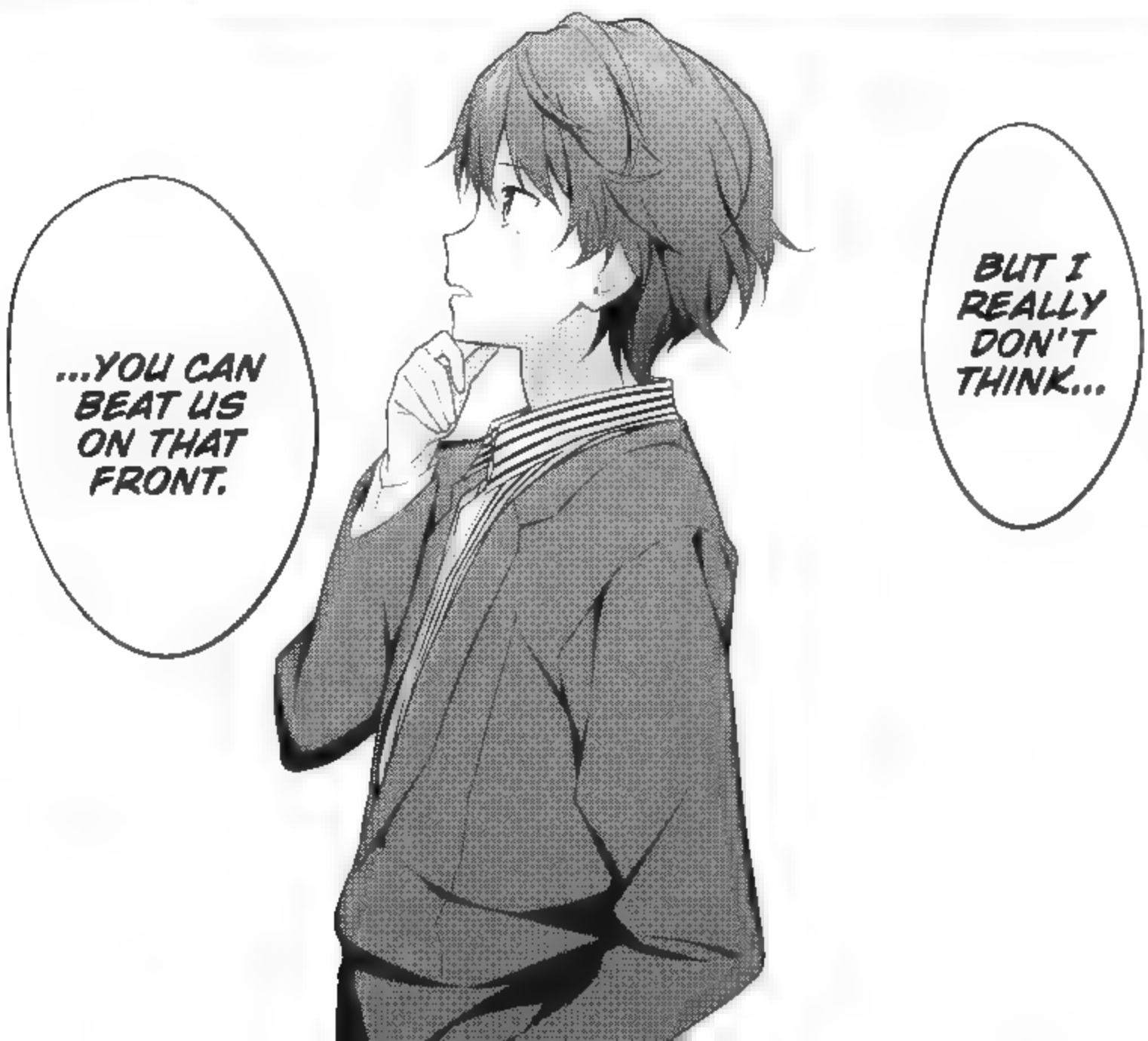
HEY, IORI.
?

...VIDEO GAMES ARE A COLLAB-ORATIVE ART, AREN'T THEY?
WELL...

PRETTY CONFI-DENT, AREN'T YOU?

HMM...
WHO CARES ABOUT HEADLINES!?
ALL THAT MATTERS IS OUR GAME'S STORY IS GONNA BE TOTALLY—


WELL DONE GETTING SUCH A HEAD-LINER.
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, THAT WE HAVE ANOTHER PERSON—?
YES. UTAKO KASUMI.


...YOU CAN BEAT US ON THAT FRONT.
BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK...

...
HUH?

HOW CAN HE BE SO SURE ...?

THAT VIDEO GAMES ARE A COLLAB-ORATIVE ART?

OH, OF COURSE, I DON'T THINK WE'LL BEAT YOU IN TERMS OF STORY.

BUT DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY IT ...?

WELL, GOOD NIGHT FOR REAL NOW, TOMOYA-KUN.

H-HEY ...!

TOMOYA-SENPAI ...

I'M SORRY.

OH, IZUMI-CHAN'S LEAVING.

TOMOYA ...

...LET'S GO, ERIRI.

BUT MEGUMI DIDN'T CONTRIBUTE ONE WORD TO THE WHOLE CONVERSATION! I COMPLETELY FORGOT SHE WAS THERE!

TOMOYA-KUN, AREN'T YOU THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK? YOU'VE SNEAKILY BEEN HIDING ANOTHER PERSON IN YOUR CIRCLE!

HANG IN THERE FOR WINTER COMIKET! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE GAME YOU MAKE, IZUMI-CHAN!

OH, SORRY! I JUST GOT TO A GOOD PART IN THIS GAME... ARE WE SPLITTING UP?

I WASN'T HIDING HER! WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT!?

S-S-S-S-SORRY, MEGUMI-SAN! I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU AT ALL UNTIL JUST THIS SECOND!

HOW LONG WAS I UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT KATOU'D GONE HOME ALREADY...!?

END

HUH?
(SAID BY ALL)

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

Story: Fumiaki Maruto Art: Takeshi Moriki Character Design: Kurehito Misaki

I'M SURE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT! I WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE TO SEE US MOVING AND TALKING?

THE ANIME VERSION OF HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRL-FRIEND!

IT'S FINALLY START-ING!

BUT THIS INFO ABOUT THE *BORING GIRLFRIEND* ANIME IN THIS MONTH'S *DRAGON* IS AWESOME! I'M SO EXCITED!

NOW HELP ME SCAN THESE LINE DRAWINGS!

IF WE DON'T HURRY, OUR GAME WON'T BE DONE IN TIME FOR WINTER COMIKET!

HOW MANY TIMES IS THAT TODAY?

YOU ALREADY ASKED!

RRGH!

BUT TOMOYA NEEDS TO HELP ME SCAN!

WHA—!?

EEP!

YOU'RE HOPELESS. LET'S GO READ IN ANOTHER ROOM.

JUST THE TWO OF US.

GLI (CHOKE)

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I GOT AN IDEA FOR THE SONG FOR THE CONFESSION SCENE, TOMO! COME GIVE IT A LISTEN!

WITH SO MUCH EXCITE-MENT THAT PAGES AND MEMBRANES TEAR...

...HM?

FWOO...

EVERY DAMN PERSON HERE...
I'M SO BUSY, AND THEY'RE JUST—

MY, SO YOU'RE HERE TOO, HYOUDOU-SAN. WELL, WE'LL LEAVE THE SCANNING TO YOU, THEN. AND NO BACK TALK.
TOMO! SHE'S SCARING ME!
KOOOOOOO (RUMBLE)

PIKIIIN (DING)

?
AW, ANYWAY. I WONDER HOW THEY'LL DEPICT THAT SCENE?

POWA
POWA (POP)
POWA
THE PART WHERE TOMOYA AND I WENT TO THE SCHOOL WITH NO ONE THERE AND WATCHED THE FIRE-WORKS...
BEING HELD LIKE A PRINCESS BENEATH THAT LIT-UP SKY WAS SO ROMANTIC!
WHAT THE HELL!?
WHAT !?
?

...I WONDER HOW FAR THEY'LL GO WITH THE SCENE WHERE RINRI-KUN AND I SPENT THE NIGHT IN THAT HOTEL?

IF THEY SHOW EVERYTHING, MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS FLOATING AROUND AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH TO KEEP IT CLEAN!

!!?

NOW, HOLD ON A SEC!

IF THIS GIG IS A SUCCESS, MARRY ME.

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER FOREVER.

JUST BEFORE THE GIG, TOMO PULLED ME DOWN AND PROPOSED IN THE GREEN ROOM.

I REMEMBER!

HEE HEE HEE!

*NOT GONNA HAPPEN

THE FINAL EPISODE WOULD BE CANCELED AND REPLACED WITH A FILLER VIDEO OF BOATS! THAT'S THE LAST THING I WANT!

IF THIS WERE ALL TRUE, I WOULD REALLY HAVE ZERO PRINCIPLES!

ALL OF US WERE IN THAT SCENE!

STOP TELLING SUCH OBVIOUS LIES!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!

HUH? SHE'S BEEN HERE ALL ALONG?

READ THEM AND BE READY FOR THE ANIME!

UMM...YOU CAN READ THE TRUTH ABOUT EVERYONE'S FANTASIES IN THE COMICS RIGHT NOW.

DRAGON AGE COMICS'S HIT HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRLFRIEND IS ON SALE NOW!!! AND IT'S BEING SERIALIZED IN DRAGON AGE!!!

KATOU WRAPPED IT ALL UP!

THE END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

THE "MEGU-TAN (ETC.) APPEARANCE FIRST" SECTION PART 5
TWINTAILS + SAILOR UNIFORM + KNEESOCKS
MY STOMACH FEELS COLD!

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 22
Nobi●● and Do●●emon refer to the manga and anime series *Doraemon* about a robot cat from the future (Doraemon) and ■ young boy (Nobita). A typical story in *Doraemon* involves Nobita coming to Doraemon while crying and asking for help, which Doraemon provides with one of his many advanced gadgets. Eriri here is behaving like Nobita, prompting Tomoya to make a comparison.

PAGE 22
Wh●te A●bum is in reference to White Album, a "Stand" from the manga *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure Part 5: Vento Aureo*. Stands are ghostly guardians of sorts, and White Album has an ability to bring the temperature of an environment to nearly absolute zero.

PAGE 25
P●D is *Puzzle & Dragons*, an immensely popular and financially successful free-to-play mobile game. It combines role-playing game and puzzle elements together in ■ fantasy setting. In Japan, it is frequently referred to as *Pazudora*.

PAGE 29
When Megumi says, **"Th-this isn't funny!"** she's reenacting the typical behavior of ■ *tsundere*—a character whose feelings for another typically go from *tsuntsun* ("cold") to *deredere* ("affectionate"). Originally, the term referred to a character who started off antagonistic but gradually fell in love but is now more commonly used for characters who flip-flop between the two.

COMMON HONORIFICS
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan (also *-tan*): An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: An honorific used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
-sensei: A respectful honorific for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

PAGE 8
Winter Comiket, or Winter Comic Market, is a multiday event held in late December where attendees can buy and sell comics, CDs, books, etc. of their own creation—many of which are fan works based on existing series. Comic Market takes place twice ■ year, once in the winter and once in the summer, and is the largest doujin event in Japan.

PAGE 17
Tomoya's sudden change in appearance is a reference to the manga ***JoJo's Bizarre Adventure*** by Hirohiko Araki. The *dododo* sound effect is also a signature feature of the series.

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 35
Ryoutarou Shiba (1923—1996, also written as Ryotaro Shiba) was one of Japan's most beloved authors of historical fiction. One of his key themes was pride in one's country without resorting to jingoism. Books translated into English from Shiba include *The Last Shogun: The Life of Tokugawa Yoshinobu* and *Clouds Above the Hill: A Historical Novel of the Russo-Japanese War*.

PAGE 35
Ju●kudo Books, or Junkudo Books, is a Japanese bookstore chain. Its flagship store is in the district of Ikebukuro, which is where Tomoya and Utaha are shopping.

PAGE 38
Sha●ey's, or Shakey's Pizza Parlor, is a pizza chain that opened in California in the United States in the 1950s. By the 1970s, Shakey's had expanded to Japan, where it remains today.

PAGE 40
8 Raben is a play on 7-Eleven, the convenience store chain. While 7-Elevens can be found in the U.S., Japanese 7-Elevens (as well as Japanese convenience stores in general) take the concept of convenience to a whole new level. Customers can purchase freshly prepared meals, have packages delivered to the store, and even buy concert tickets directly. 7-Eleven is so popular in Japan that the company that currently owns 7-Eleven (including the U.S. stores) is Japanese.

PAGE 48
The characters who show up behind Utaha's shopping bags are **mascots for various otaku-oriented stores**. From left to right, these are Anime Tenchou ("Anime Shop Manager") from **Animate**, Meron from **MelonBooks**, and Miko-chan from **Toranoana**.

PAGE 48
From the 1970s, Japan experienced extremely fast-paced economic growth. By the 1980s, Japan was home to a **bubble economy**, where stock market and real estate values were greatly inflated. Following its crash in the early 1990s, Japan entered a long recession, one which still continues to this day.

PAGE 51
College entrance exams are notoriously brutal in Japan, but some students (typically those who excel academically or are shown to possess incredible talent) can get into college by recommendation from their high schools. Individual colleges have **recommendation quotas**, limiting the number of students who can enroll in this manner.

PAGE 57
High school in Japan is generally considered a much more stressful and grueling period in life compared to college, especially because the looming threat of college entrance exams is no longer present. This is why Tomoya says, **"You know, I hear college students basically have a lot of free time."** In some cases, Japanese college students can even pass and earn credits without attending class.

PAGE 60
While dating sims and visual novels are designed to have multiple endings and possibilities, one of these is generally labeled the **true route**, essentially the canon narrative.

PAGE 67
The **Ikebukuro P●●nce Hotel**, a.k.a. the Sunshine City Prince Hotel, is located close to the Ikebukuro train station.

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 125
It is fairly common among hardcore Japanese fans to refer to a work as **divine** or godly (*kami*), hence Megumi's response of **"good work, true believer."**

PAGE 130
A **hard of hearing main character** is not a protagonist who is literally deaf or unable to hear well. Instead, it refers to a character who is perpetually unaware of the romantic feelings other characters have for them. Often, when another character is directly confessing, the main character will be coincidentally preoccupied with something else and thus miss the message entirely.

PAGE 132
Because the true route is generally considered the canon narrative for a dating sim, implicit in the **comparison between the first and second version** is the question of which type of girl does Tomoya ultimately prefer—one like Megumi or one like Utaha?

PAGE 142
Kamishibai (literally "paper play") is a form of Japanese storytelling, in which a narrator or storyteller, armed with a series of illustrated cards, weaves a tale about the images on those cards. It can be considered a precursor to Japanese manga. Similarly, Japanese dating sims often use a series of mostly still images with text to progress the plot of the game.

PAGE 142
When Tomoya calls *kamishibai* games "**culture**," he's not talking about the fandom surrounding dating sims but rather the idea that they are representative of civilization.

PAGE 84
Pa●co refers to the Japanese department store chain Parco. The Parco in Ikebukuro, connected to the train station, is the flagship store.

PAGE 85
Tomoya calls Eriri a **3-D beauty** to contrast between attractive girls in reality and those found in anime, manga, and games, i.e. 2-D beauties. The term 2-D is used even if the character in question is a 3-D model.

PAGE 90
The **sci-fi/fantasy** genre mentioned here is called *denki* in Japanese. The term is roughly equivalent to the word "romance" as referring not to stories about love and romantic entanglements, but the older meaning of "adventures in far-off worlds." Both science fiction and fantasy are common settings for *denki*.

PAGE 92
A **swipe artist** (*trace sakka* in Japanese) is someone who produces imitations of another artist's style. This term can apply to those who plagiarize by tracing over another's work, as well as to those who intentionally draw in an almost carbon copy style of others. They are fairly common in doujin circles, usually among fans of existing properties who want to draw like their favorite artists.

PAGE 97
A **fallen character** refers to a character in an anime, manga, or game who ends up being corrupted in the story—possibly in an alternate path when it comes to games. Typically, prior to their fall, the character is (or at least appears to be) extremely innocent, gentle, and naive.

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 153
Anna ●●ller refers to Anna Miller's, a Hawaiian and Japanese restaurant chain that began in 1973. It's known for its attractive female waitresses and their cute uniforms along with its pies. The official Japanese Anna Miller's website even has a dedicated pie section on the menu.

PAGE 156
When Tomoya exclaims, **"This game is crap!"** in the Japanese version, he uses the word *kusoge*, or "crappy game." Not just referring to games that are merely below average, *kusoge* is used to label particularly terrible or downright unplayable games, full of glitches, easily abusable strategies, and other negative qualities.

PAGE 160
Being **held like a princess** is a common trope of romantic anime and manga. The similarity to the stereotypical image of a groom carrying a bride over the threshold is well understood, a connection which Eriri is making here.

PAGE 161
When a racy late-night anime exposes a little too much skin for TV, the image is usually censored using **mysterious lights**, beams of light, heavy amounts of steam, and other similar vision-obscuring elements. The uncensoring of these scenes is frequently a selling point for the Blu-ray and DVD releases of a given title.

PAGE 162
The final episode of the anime adaptation for the dating sim *School Days* was pulled from broadcast due to its extreme graphic violence. In its place aired a **filler video of boats**. This spawned a recurring Internet joke among Japanese fans called "Nice Boat," where the image of the boat and its implications of censorship are used for humor and parody. *School Days*, the game, is infamous for its two-timing protagonist and the fact that his promiscuity frequently leads him (and those around him) to violent ends.

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRLFRIEND 5

TAKESHI MORIKI
Original Story: FUMIAKI MARUTO
Character Design: KUREHITO MISAKI

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Translation Consultant: Chitoku Teshima
Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

SAENAI HEROINE NO SODATE-KATA Volume 5
©TAKESHI MORIKI 2015
©FUMIAKI MARUTO, KUREHITO MISAKI 2015.
First published in Japan in 2015 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights reserved by YEN PRESS, LLC under the license
from KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, Inc., Tokyo.

English translation © 2017 by Yen Press, LLC

Yen Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

Visit us!
- yenpress.com
- facebook.com/yenpress
- twitter.com/yenpress
- yenpress.tumblr.com
- instagram.com/yenpress

First Yen Press Edition: March 2017

Yen Press is an imprint of Yen Press, LLC.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Yen Press, LLC.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015952583

ISBNs: 978-0-316-31647-7 (paperback)
978-0-316-47073-5 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

BVG

Printed in the United States of America

CHAPTER
26

HRMM...

YOU'RE READING THAT AGAIN?

HNN...

HM?

...OH, THANKS! I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGE AT THE MOMENT, SO I'LL HAVE TO OWE YOU.

AND A BLACK COFFEE TOO.

I BOUGHT YOU A CURRY BUN.

YIKES! MAYBE I'VE TREATED KATOU TOO CARELESSLY LATELY.

...SORRY. I'LL PAY YOU BACK RIGHT NOW WITH INTEREST. FORGIVE ME!

...I'VE MOVED UP FROM AKI-KUN'S "CLASSMATE B" STATUS TO "HANGER-ON A"?

UM, DOES THAT MEAN ...

SO?

DID YOU FIGURE ANYTHING OUT IN THE END?

YEAH, SORT OF.

UTAHA-SENPAI'S SCENARIOS ARE TRULY DIVINE!

HM! WHAT?

はむ HAMU (CHOMP)

IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE THAT NIGHT IN THE PARK.

I'VE READ SENPAI'S SCRIPTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

THEY'VE MADE MY EYES GROW WIDER THAN EVER.

ちゅ CHUUU (SUCK)

...YES, BUT IT'S ANNOYING TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END, SO TRY TO REMEMBER THAT TOO, OKAY?

I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY, "YES, YES, GOOD WORK, TRUE BELIEVER," RIGHT?

OH. I REMEMBER HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT.

WHAT WAS IT...?

WHAT DID HE REALLY MEAN BY THAT?

IORI'S IDLE COMMENTS HAD AN HONESTY THAT WAS UNUSUAL FOR HIM, AND THEY STUCK IN MY HEAD.

BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU CAN BEAT US ON THAT FRONT.

?

I THOUGHT IT WAS OTAKU ARROGANCE, BUT THAT ASIDE...

...HOW ABOUT —?

...I THINK I'M OVER-THINKING IT TOO.

HOW MUCH FAITH I CAN ACTU-ALLY HAVE IN YOUR OPINION ASIDE ...

AREN'T YOU WORRY-ING TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS?

EVEN I CAN SEE IT'S WELL DONE, I THINK.

SFX: KYU (TUG)

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I REREAD THEM, UTAHA-SENPAI'S SCENARIOS ARE MAGNIFICENT.

EVEN I THINK I'M OVER-THINKING IT.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PICK BETWEEN THE TWO VERSIONS.

ZAWA

ZAWA (MUTTERING)

ZAWA

BUT IT STILL BOTHERS ME...

...HUH?

...SO WHY DOES HE BELIEVE THEY'LL WIN?

WE HAVEN'T EVEN RELEASED A TRIAL YET...

SO WHY WAS IORI SO CONFIDENT TO BEGIN WITH?

I DIDN'T THINK I WAS BEING ROUGH ON HER JUST NOW...

HER STEALTH STATS ARE OFF THE CHARTS.

GASA (RUSTLE)

GASA

WAIT, WHAT THE—!? WHERE IS SHE!?

TWO PAGES EARLIER

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

JIII (STARE)

YOU WEREN'T LOOKING FOR AKI-KUN?

IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO SHOW UP IN A SECOND-YEAR CLASS-ROOM.

YES...

...HUH?

ZAWA

SOWA

A-ACTUALLY ...

...HOW IS...

...RINRI-KUN DOING ?

SOWA

SOWA (FIDGET)

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO ASK ME SOME-THING?

HM. NO, THAT'S FINE.
WELL, YOU SEE...

...IS THAT SO WRONG ?
...TO ASK ME?
...IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED...

S-SO THEN...
...HAS HE MADE A DECISION?
YES. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH ONE TO USE.

I... I SEE ...
IT SEEMS NOT. THAT'S WHY HE KEEPS RE-READING THEM.

S-SWEATING...?
!
...HE'S BEEN READING YOUR SCENARIOS NONSTOP...
...AND SWEATING ENDLESSLY OVER THEM.

POSO (WHISPER)
MEANING THERE'S STILL SOME HOPE...?

...I THINK YOU'RE LEARNING ALL THE WRONG THINGS, DON'T YOU?

OH!

"HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?" THAT'S WHAT A PROPER HARD OF HEARING MAIN CHARACTER IS SUPPOSED TO ASK BACK, RIGHT?

...

I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE TAKING ME LIGHTLY OR SERIOUSLY.

THANK YOU, KATOU-SAN. I'LL BE SEEING YOU.

...OR I SHOULD SAY, IF I ENDED UP TELLING YOU, IT'D LOSE ALL MEANING.

WELL, EVEN IF I EXPLAINED IT TO YOU, THERE'D BE NO POINT...

HMM... HRRMM...

?

ABOUT THAT... I REALLY CAN'T TELL EITHER.

WHAT IS IT?

HEY, AKI-KUN?

UM, I DON'T THINK I WAS UNMOTIVATED BEFORE.

WHAT'S UP, KATOU?

HOW COME YOU'RE SO MOTIVATED ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I WONDER WHAT MEANINGS KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI EMBEDDED INTO THESE TWO SCENARIOS?

BY THAT, I MEAN...

...IF YOU CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

HUH ...?

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHICH DO YOU LIKE MORE, RINRI-KUN?

I HAVE TO DECIDE ENTIRELY ON THAT...

IN THE END...
...MAYBE I CAN'T KNOW UNLESS I PLAY IT.
THAT'S IT, AKI-KUN!
WHAT IS, KATOU-KUN!?
SHE'S KINDA GOT CHAR-ACTER TODAY!
THE OUT-STANDING FIRST ONE, WITH THE CUTE PONYTAIL AND SCI-FI/ FANTASY-STYLE KICKS...
...OR THE LONG-HAIR-WITH-STRAIGHT-BANGS, INTELLECTU-ALLY DEEP, TEAR-JERKING, FANTASTIC ROMANCE OF THE SECOND...
THEY BOTH GET ME SO WORKED UP I COULD CRY...
IF YOU CAN'T KNOW UNLESS YOU PLAY THEM...
...THEN WHY NOT PLAY THEM?
HUH ...?

A TEST PLAY?

YES.

I SEE... YOU'RE RIGHT... WE HAVE COMPLETE SCRIPTS ALREADY.

IF WE SCRAPE TOGETHER WHAT WE HAVE ON HAND, WE COULD WRITE A RUNNING PROGRAM.

BUT I WONDER IF THE IDEA THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T GET BY READING ALONE...

...IS WHAT AN AMATEUR WOULD THINK?

NO!

LET'S PLAY THE GAME!

IF WE COMBINE SOME...ART, MUSIC, AND EFFECTS AND TRY PLAYING IT, MAYBE IT'LL COME INTO FOCUS!

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN...?

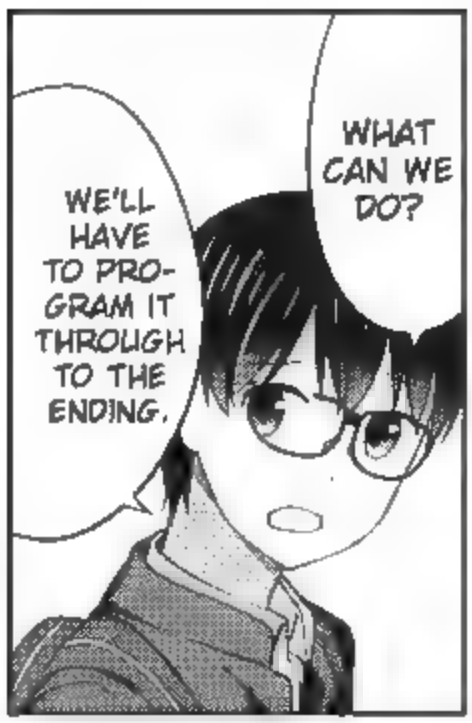
I ALWAYS MAKE BIG STATE-MENTS LIKE THAT...

"GAMES ARE A COLLAB-ORATIVE ART."

...BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES, I FAIL TO SEE THE ANSWERS THAT ARE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

WE SHOULD'VE DONE IT RIGHT AWAY!

...AND I END UP BEING TAUGHT A LESSON BY THE SAME PERSON.


WE'LL HAVE TO PROGRAM IT THROUGH TO THE ENDING.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

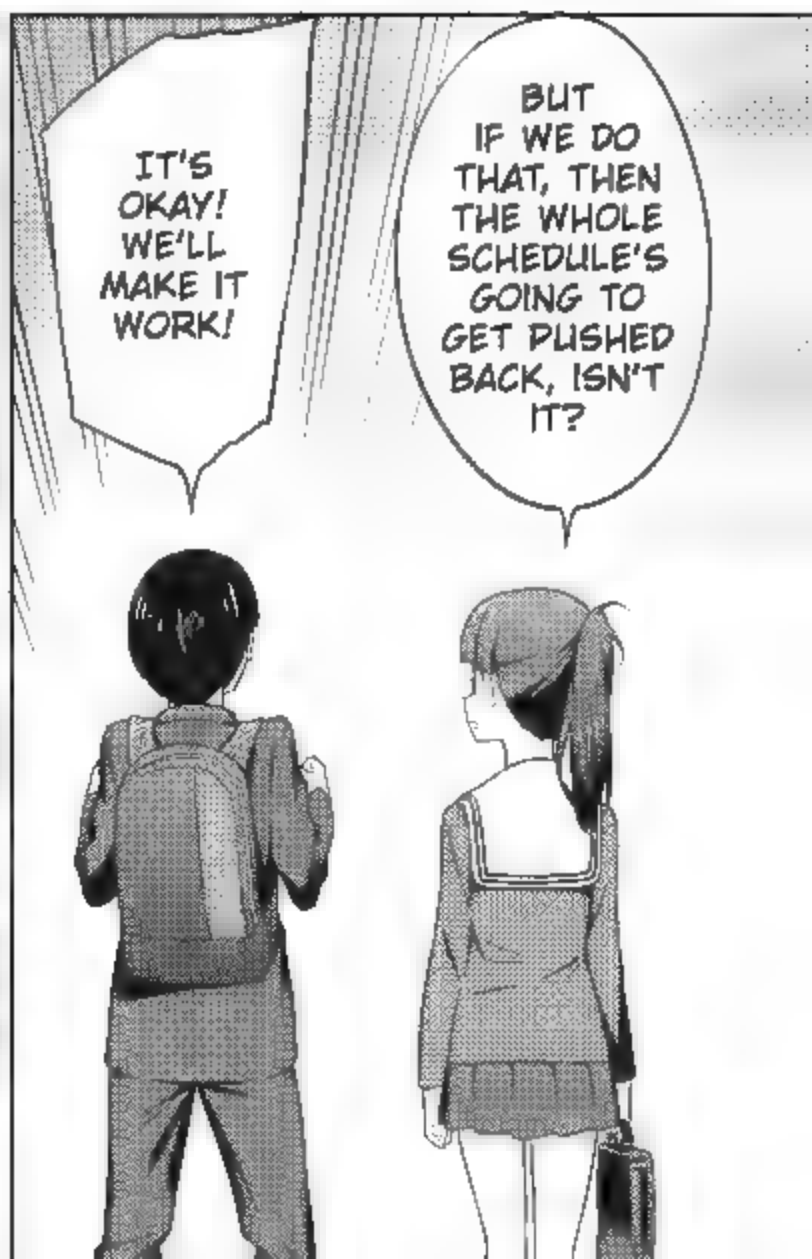
THAT'S TOO LATE.

WELL... MAYBE BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK?
SO HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE SOMETHING PLAYABLE?

THEN I'LL GET INTO THE CODING...
TONIGHT, I'LL CHOOSE THE EVENT GRAPHICS THAT APPLY TO BOTH SCENARIOS AND GIVE THEM TO ERIRI.
GUESS SO.
BUT WOULDN'T SAWAMURA-SAN HAVE TO STOP WORKING DURING THAT TIME TOO?

AKI-KUN...
UMM...
HM?
GATAN

I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL FOR MY DREAMS!
GOTON (KADUNK)
GATAN (KATHUNK)


IT'S OKAY! WE'LL MAKE IT WORK!
BUT IF WE DO THAT, THEN THE WHOLE SCHEDULE'S GOING TO GET PUSHED BACK, ISN'T IT?

YOU WON'T LIE DOWN ON THE JOB?

?

ONE WEEK ...

THAT'S HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE YOU WORKING ALONE, RIGHT?

YEAH, WELL ...

YOU PROMISE?

YOU WON'T GO ON THE NET, OR WATCH ANIME, OR GET DISTRACTED AND START READING OLD MANGA, INADVERTENTLY FINISHING THE RUN?

DO YOU ABSOLUTELY SWEAR ?

I-I'D NEVER DODGE WORK AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

YES.

I CAN SWEAR THAT, I THINK.

MAYBE.

ERR .....

... UMM ...

GATAN (KATHUNK)

TAKE THIS!

PUSHUUU (PSHHT)

I'LL HURRY HOME, GET A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, AND COME OVER TO YOUR PLACE, AKI-KUN...

HUH .....?

SO JUST TAKE MY BAG, PLEASE!

SEE YOU SOON!

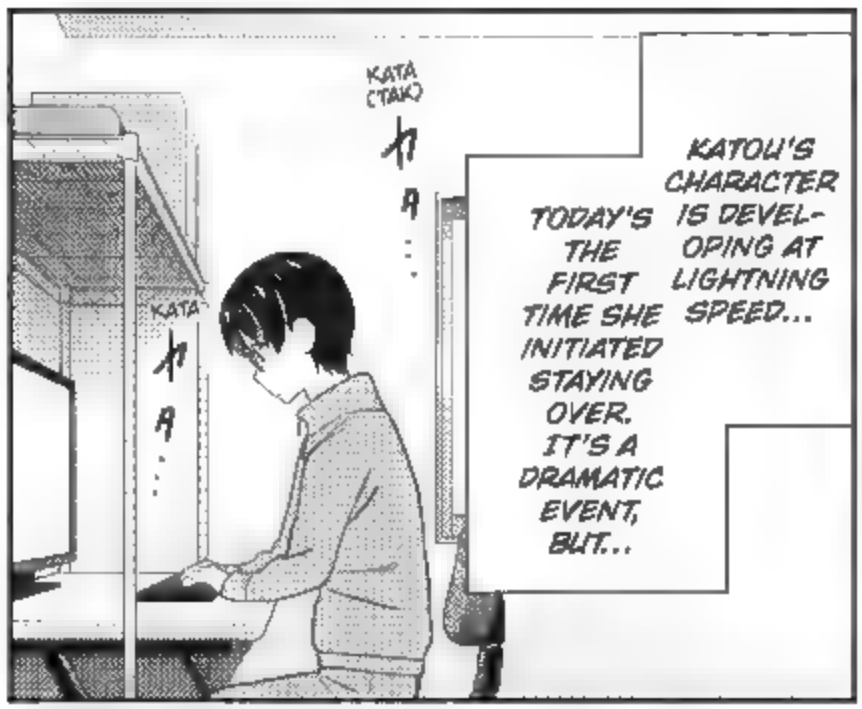
K—

KATOU ...!

PUSHUUU

Please be careful of the closing doors~!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER
-YAWN-
TIME FOR BED?
KOSHI (RUB)
I'M FINE. AND WE STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN VERY FAR.
KOSHI
OKAY, CHAPTER 3 IS READY!
GOOD. SHALL WE TRY TO RUN IT?
OH, IT CRASHED.
...WELL, IT WAS A RUSH JOB.

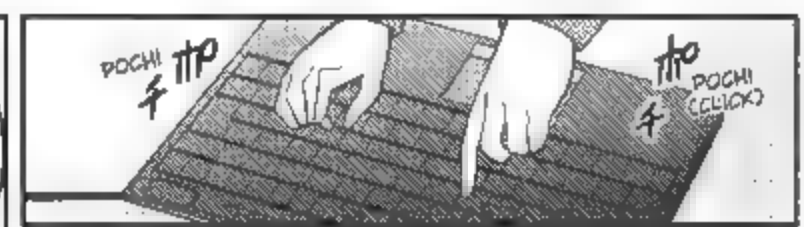

KATA (TAK)
KATA
TODAY'S THE FIRST TIME SHE INITIATED STAYING OVER. IT'S A DRAMATIC EVENT, BUT...
KATOU'S CHARACTER IS DEVELOPING AT LIGHTNING SPEED...

OKAY!
WELL, CALL ME AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE DONE DEBUGGING IT.

'KAY, GOT IT.
WE JUST NEED TO WORK AROUND WHATEVER RESOURCES WE'RE LACKING. THE PRIORITY IS TO GET A THING THAT RUNS.
STICK IN A DUMMY.

AH! HERE IT IS.
LOOKS LIKE THE BACKGROUND ART FILE IS MISSING.

...DON'T GIVE UP, KATOU.
WAH!
IT CRASHED AGAIN.


POCHI
POCHI (CLICK)

I'M DONE FIXING IT, AKI-KUN.
GOOD. IT'S RETEST TIME.

KOKU

KOKU (NOD)

WELL, THE HURDLES WE SET FOR OURSELVES ARE PRETTY HIGH.

WE'VE BEEN WORKING FOR TWENTY HOURS. WE'RE HITTING THE WALL HERE...

PLUS, KATOU DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH PULLING ALL-NIGHTERS LIKE THIS.

KATA

KATA

NOBII (STRETCH)

HEY, KATOU!

YOU REALLY DO NEED TO SLEEP.

-:YAWN:-

DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY END IN SIGHT...

KATA

KATA

HM.

I WONDER.

MAYBE WE'VE BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES ...

MAYBE IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME?

POCHI

POCHI

POCHI

POCHI

I GUESS IT WAS NO USE AFTER ALL...

...TRYING TO GET IT DONE IN TWO DAYS.

AT PRESENT, WE'VE STILL ONLY MADE ABOUT 30% PROGRESS. THAT'S NOT MUCH...

KATA

WELL ...

...EVEN IF WE DON'T MAKE IT IN TIME, IF WE PRESS ON NOW, IT'LL MAKE THINGS A LITTLE EASIER LATER.

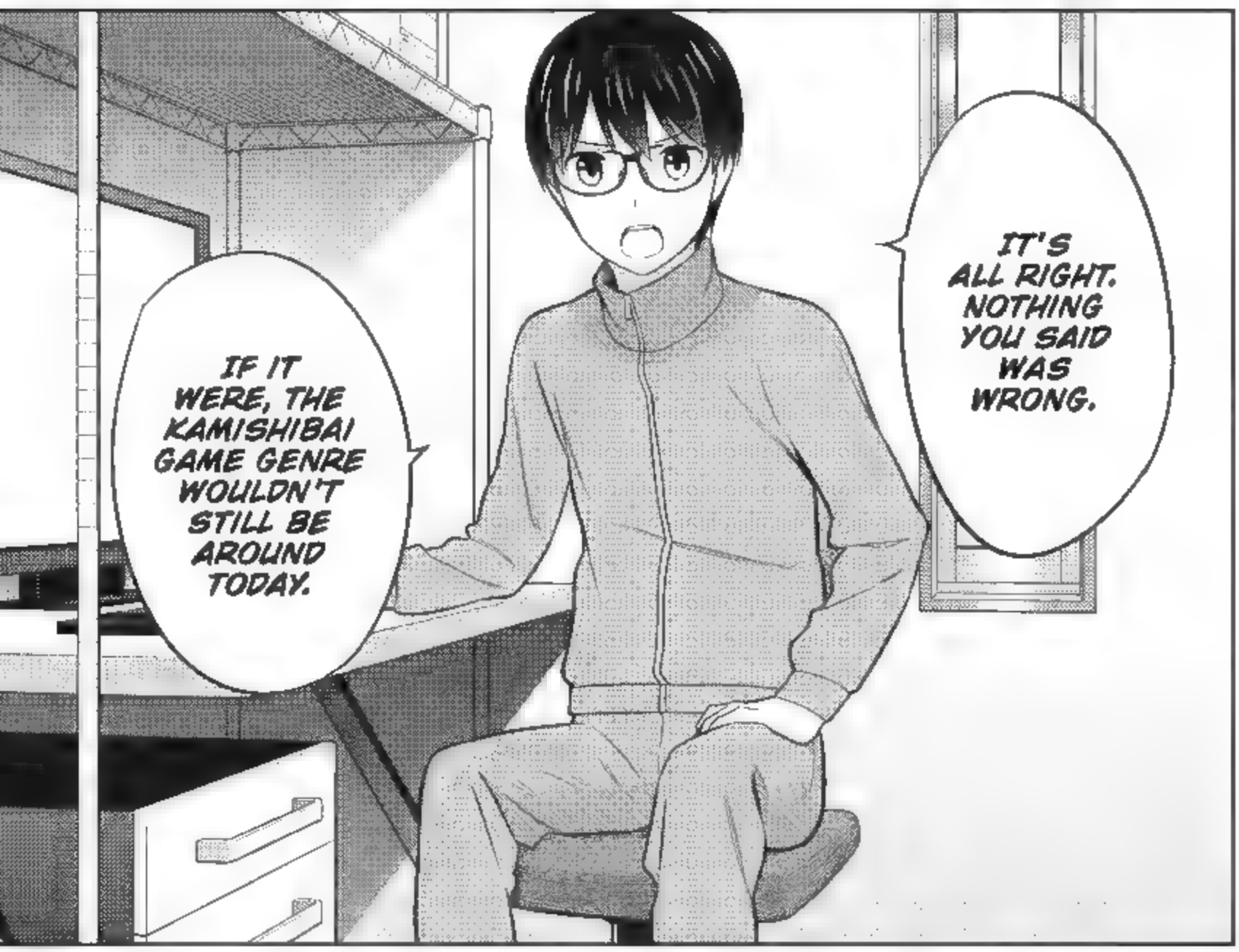
BUT THIS MIGHT ALL HAVE BEEN POINTLESS.

...AND NOW, I'M BEING SUCH A DOWNER...

I GOT SO WORKED UP YESTERDAY...

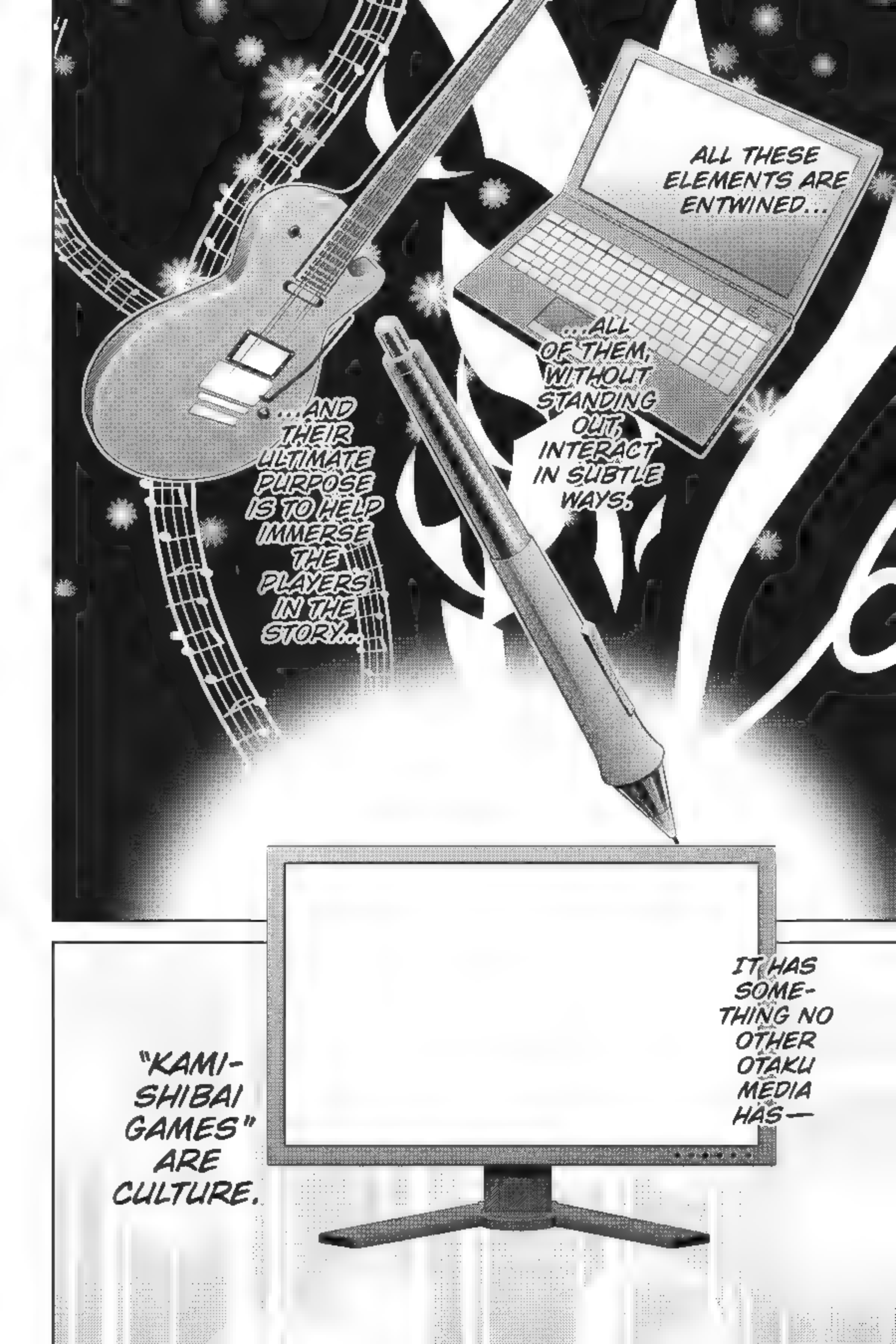
I'M SORRY, AKI-KUN.

HUH ...?
THERE IS A POINT. IT'S NOT A WASTE.
...


IF IT WERE, THE KAMISHIBAI GAME GENRE WOULDN'T STILL BE AROUND TODAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. NOTHING YOU SAID WAS WRONG.

AND MOST OF ALL, AN INTERACTIVE PROGRAM. WITHOUT IT, THE USER CAN'T READ THE STORY.
YOU NEED ART.
...YOU CAN'T MAKE ONE WITH JUST THE SCRIPT.
MUSIC.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
SEE...


ALL THESE ELEMENTS ARE ENTWINED...
...ALL OF THEM, WITHOUT STANDING OUT, INTERACT IN SUBTLE WAYS.
...AND THEIR ULTIMATE PURPOSE IS TO HELP IMMERSE THE PLAYERS IN THE STORY...
IT HAS SOME-THING NO OTHER OTAKU MEDIA HAS—
"KAMI-SHIBAI GAMES" ARE CULTURE.

AKI-KUN.....

I BELIEVE THAT...

...WITHIN GAMES AND GAMES ALONE, THERE'S A CERTAIN REALITY, A CERTAIN TRUTH...

THAT'S WHY THIS GENRE HAS SURVIVED...

...TO THIS DAY.

IT'S AN EXPERIENCE EXCLUSIVE TO THOSE GAMES.

YOU WERE RIGHT TO SAY WE NEED TO PLAY IT.

...AND A CERTAIN PASSION.

SO, KATOU—

IF THAT GENIUS DOUJIN EXPLOITER SAID IT, THEN THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING THERE, SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT WE'RE NOT SEEING.

AND I ALSO BELIEVE...

...THAT IORI— ROUGE EN ROUGE— HAVING THE CONFIDENCE TO DECLARE BLUNTLY THAT THEY'RE CURRENTLY ON TOP MEANS SOMETHING...

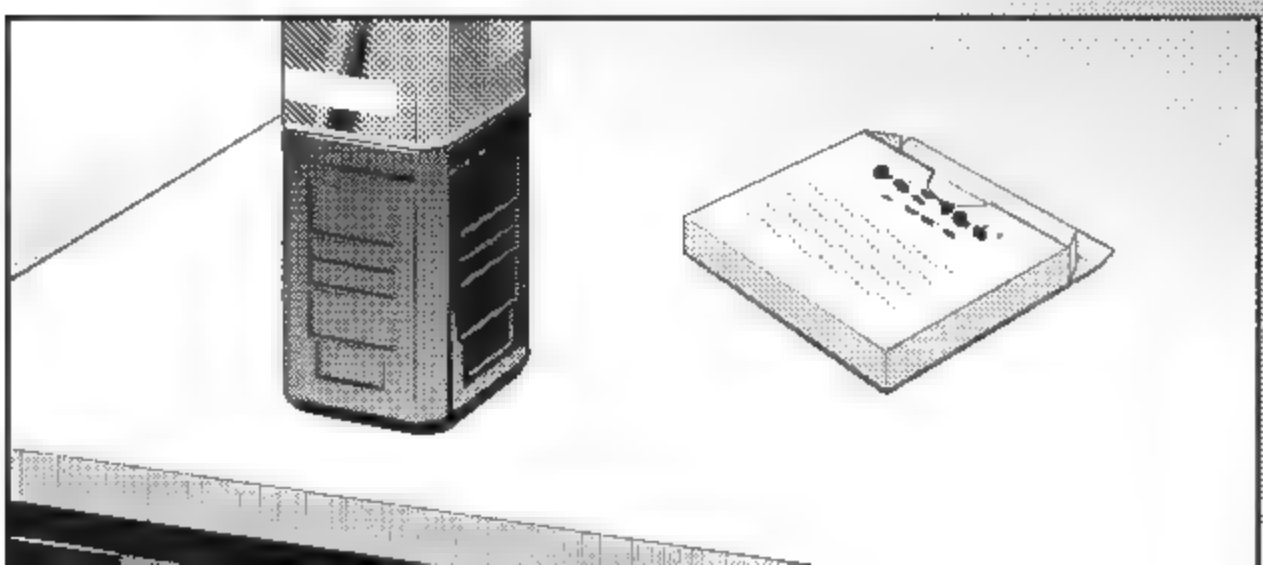
PATAN (WHUMP)
NOSO (WRIGGLE)
SUKU (RISE)
NOSO

GAGAAAN (WHAM)

...SO SORRY, AKI-KUN. WAKE ME IN TWO HOURS.

SHE RAN OUTTA GAS RIGHT AT THE KEY MOMENT!

WHA ~!?



URRRRK!!!

HEY!

WAKE UUUP!!!

COULD YOU DISPENSE WITH THE MUTUAL MISUNDER-STANDING BEFORE CONVERSING PLEASE?

KOFF! KOFF!

WE CAME HERE RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL.

UM, SINCE LAST NIGHT MAYBE?

=YAAAWN=

WHAT IS THIS? HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO?

I WAS WONDERING WHO WAS HERE, BUT IT'S YOU, KATOU-SAN.

GUTTARI (SLUMP)

NO! THAT WAS A MATTER OF DIGNITY!

WELL, CONSIDERING WHAT A WUSS HE WAS THAT NIGHT (VOLUME 4 EPILOGUE), I'M NOT SURPRISED.

AND THE TWO OF US REALLY OVERSLEPT.

WELL, THE SITUATION'S PRETTY TIGHT.

SO ARE YOU GONNA MEET YOUR DEAD-LINE?

I SEE! SO THIS IS A GAME PRO-GRAMMING CAMP, HUH!?

HMPH. I SEE ~!

YOU'RE IN A FIX ~! HOW DISCOUR-AGING ~!

YOUR LACK OF INTEREST IS WAY TOO OBVIOUS ...!

I DID.

IT WAS MY FAULT FOR BELIEVING YOU WOULD WAKE ME UP.

I'M SORRY.

GRRR!

.....AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND.

...YOU PASSED OUT FIRST, KATOU.

...BUT—

NO, NO.

NEVER MIND THAT. I SEE NOW THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE COMPLETELY INCONGRUOUS, NEWLY-CREATED, SUPER-STRONG ORIGINAL CHARACTERS THAT THIRD-RATE FANFICTION WRITERS OFTEN PUT IN THEIR OWN STORIES ON FANSITES!

...SORRY. I DON'T GET A SINGLE THING YOU JUST SAID.

RIGHT ~!?

IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU TWO WOULD'VE SLEPT TILL MORNING FOR SURE!

YOU REALLY SAVED US, MICHIRU...

JAN

JAN (STRUM)

SAID PLAINLY, YOU ARE THE HERO WITH SO MUCH ABILITY AS TO ALMOST BE BROKEN, CAPABLE OF TOPPLING THE EXISTING BALANCE OF THE WORLD.

BIGHH (JAB)

THAT'S RIGHT... WITH YOU OF ALL PEOPLE HERE...

HUH?

HUUUH ~!?

...WE CAN STAGE A MASSIVE UPHEAVAL AND SAVE THIS HOPELESS SITUATION!

NO. YOU'LL BE FINE...

THERE IS A SUIT-ABLE ROLE FOR YOU...

NUU (LOOM)

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HELP WITH ALL THAT CLACKETY STUFF!

KATA

KATA

KATA (TAP)

KATA

BUT ALL I CAN DO IS PLAY GUITAR AND WRITE SONGS!

...OUR NEGOTIATOR!

YES. YOU ARE GOING TO BE...

WHAT DO THOSE THREE HAVE TO DO WITH THIS!?

H-HUH!?

...WITH YOUR BAND— THOSE THREE OTAKU GIRLS!

YOU'RE GONNA MEDIATE FOR US...

N-NEGO... WHAT?

THEY CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN... THEY'RE A ZILLION TIMES MORE USEFUL THAN EVEN YOU, MICHIRU!

HMPH!

...

I'M OUTTA HERE!

ECHIKA HAS PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE FOR SURE...

SHE EVEN BOASTED ABOUT HER GRADES IN COMPUTER CLASSES AT SCHOOL.

WE'VE GOT JOBS LIKE MAKING FILE LISTS AND PLAY-TESTING THAT NEED TO BE DONE.

AND TOKI AND RANKO ARE PRETTY SERIOUS GAMERS.

OH~! I'LL USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HOP IN THE BATH.

NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! YOU'RE GOING TO SECURE THEIR CO-OPERATION!

CHECK IF THEY CAN DO THE WORK AT THEIR HOUSES! IF NOT, CALL THEM HERE!

STUFF LIKE THIS IS THE ONLY REASON YOU EVER TRY TO KEEP ME AROUND!

IF YOU DON'T, THEN I'LL NEVER MANAGE "ICY TAIL" AGAIN!

SHE CALLED THEM RIGHT AWAY.

GACHA (KACHAK)

YO!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

I BROUGHT 'EM ALL!

?
WITH THE THREE OF THEM HELPING OUT, WE MADE DRAMATIC PROGRESS.
KATA (TAK)
KATA
KATA
ECHIKA IN PARTICULAR WAS AS TALENTED AS I'D HOPED...
KATA
KATA

U-UNDER-STOOD!

YOU'RE GONNA TREAT ME TO AN ANNA ○○LLER BANANA PIE FOR THIS!

...BUT SHE APPARENTLY HAD A DATE TODAY, AND EVERY WORD SHE SPOKE WAS DRIPPING WITH VENOM.

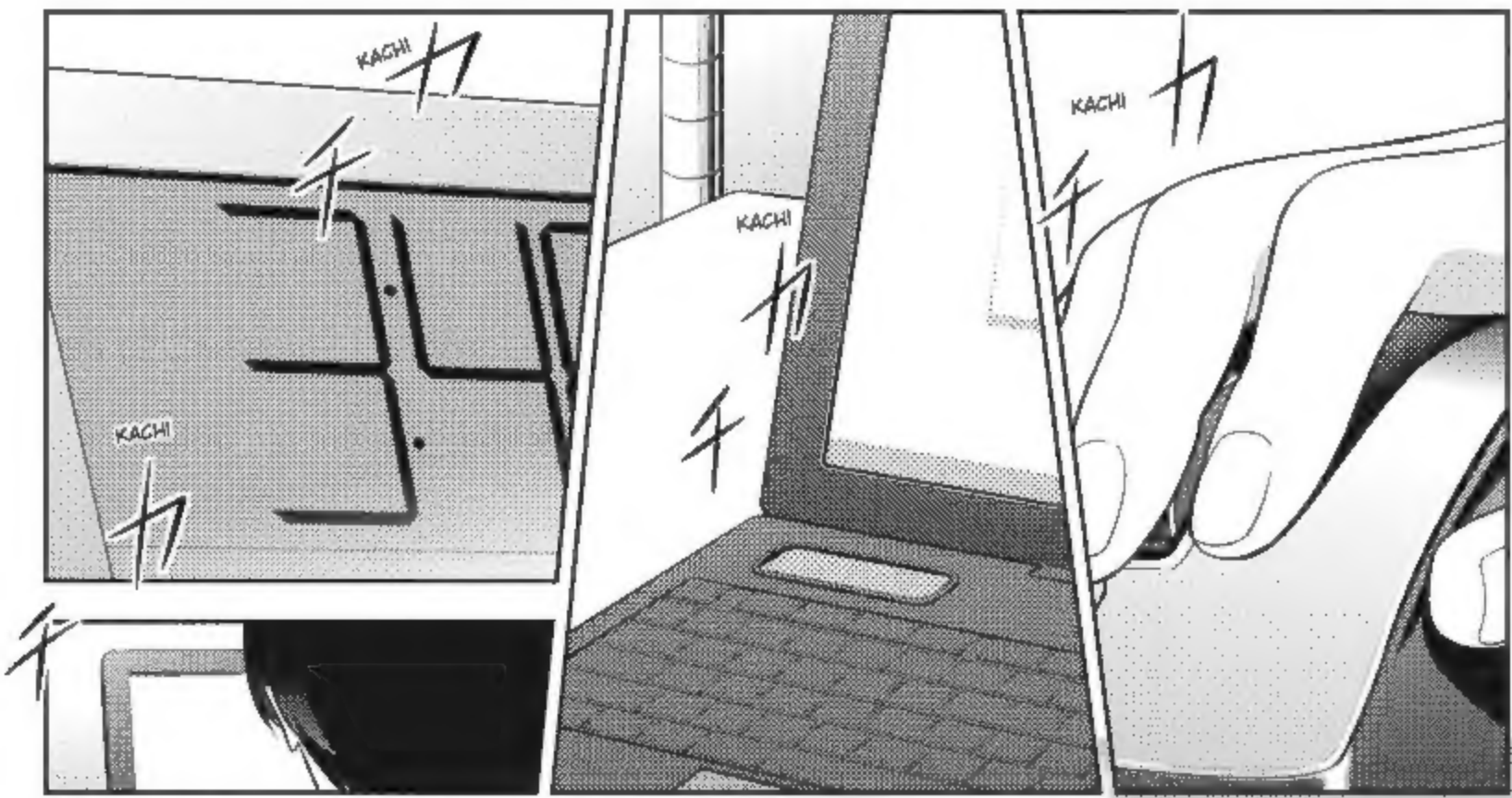
EVERYONE PUT IN MORE EFFORT THAN USUAL, AND IT PAID OFF AT THE VERY END.

AT LONG LAST, THE ALPHA VERSION OF OUR GAME WAS COMPLETE.

2300 24

OKAY! PLAY-TIME!

!


KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI
KACHI

NOW, I GET IT...
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT, IORI...

WHAT THE HELL ...?
THIS GAME IS CRAP!
TO BE CONTINUED

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

The piece included in the following pages ran in the March 2015 issue of *Dragon Magazine* as a special feature.
It's the "*How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend* TV Anime Adaptation Celebration Comic"!